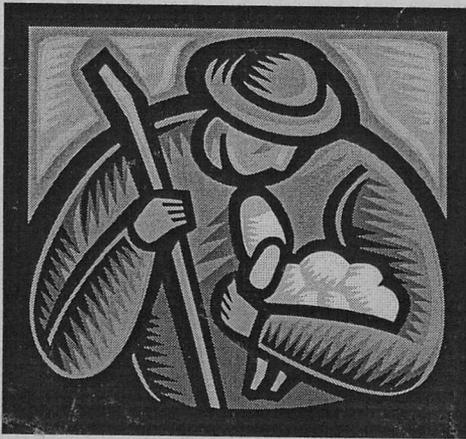


*RECONCILIATION SERVICE
GRADE 8*

February 2009



*Curé of Ars
Merrick, New York*

RECONCILIATION

GREETING

Presider: Grace and peace be with you from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ who laid down his life for our sins.

All: Amen

CALL TO PRAYER

Presider: My brothers and sisters, God calls us to conversion. Let us therefore ask Him for the grace of sincere repentance.

All: Lord, our God, you are patient with sinners and accept our desire to make amends. We acknowledge our sins and, with the help of your Son, Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit, we change our lives. Help us to celebrate this sacrament of your mercy and to receive from you the gift of everlasting joy. We ask this through our risen Lord. **Amen.**

SCRIPTURE READING: Luke 15: 1-7

HOMILY

EXAMINATION OF CONSCIENCE

Do you examine your conscience by using *only* the Ten Commandments?

If so, you may be missing an opportunity to really reflect on your life.

Let us ask for the guidance of the Holy Spirit, as we reflect on our lives in a different way.

MY LIFE WITH GOD

- Do I think of God during the day and talk to him in own way?
- Do I make a sincere effort to participate in the celebration of Mass regularly?
- Is God real in my life, a close friend, someone with whom I feel comfortable?

MY LIFE WITH OTHERS

- Am I honestly and sincerely able to say that I love my neighbor as myself?
- Am I selfish in my love, trying to monopolize others, fearing that their love for others diminishes their love for me?
- Do I try to dominate others, using little tricks to have my own way?
- Do I willingly share what I have with others, especially with my own family?
- Do I respond to the needs of others in my family?
- Am I respectful of others? Of the poor? Of members of other races? Of people who disagree with me?
- Do I look for ways to help others, even those whom I dislike?
- Do I associate with those whose friendship will be helpful to me and respect those who have nothing to give me?
- Do I see others as images of God and brothers and sisters of Christ?
- Do I respect their bodies and persons?
- Do I take advantage of their need for love and acceptance for my own pleasure?
- Do I talk too much about myself and not listen to others?
- Am I understanding of the faults and oddities of others?
- Do I feel anguish with the suffering of others?

MY LIFE WITH MYSELF

- Do I accept being the person I am, realizing that I am the very best of God's creation?
- Do I treat myself with respect and reverence?
- Have I mistreated my own body, God's temple, through excessive use of food, drugs, alcohol, gambling, sex, or texting?
- Am I developing the talents that God gave me?

- Do I study, read, and pray?
- Do I let discouragement overpower me so that I become morose and depressed?
- Am I trying to make friends with others?
- Have I excused myself from guilt because everyone is doing it?

EXPRESSION OF SORROW FOR SINS

Presider: My brothers and sisters, let us call to mind the goodness of God our Father, and acknowledge our sins, so that we may receive his merciful forgiveness.

All: My God, I am sorry for my sins with all my heart. In choosing to do wrong and failing to do good, I have sinned against you whom I love above all things. I firmly intend, with your help, to sin no more, to do penance, and to avoid whatever leads me to sin. Our Savior, Lord Jesus Christ, suffered and died for us. In his name, my God have mercy.

RITE OF RECONCILIATION

Presider: Christ our Savior is our advocate with the Father. With humble hearts, let us ask him to forgive our sins and to cleanse us from every stain. We pray now as Jesus taught us:

All: Our Father.....

CLOSING HYMN

REFLECTION QUESTIONS:

Can I forgive others knowing that God has forgiven them?
 Can I forgive myself when He has forgiven me? If not, what areas of my life need healing ?