

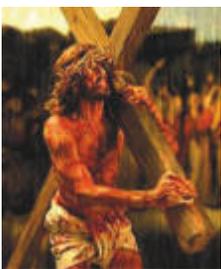


From the Desk of Fr. Leo

The 1-1-1 Plan: By now, I hope we've made this something of a Lenten tradition here in

Cresson. The 1-1-1 Plan consists of **ONE SIN:** Concentrate or focus on one personal sin or fault that is getting in the way of your relationship with God and with others. That one sin which troubles your conscience the most – focus on that one. **ONE ADD-IN:** Add one positive activity that will deepen your prayer and spiritual life. Consider adding any of the following to your prayer-life: attend daily Masses, Adoration, Stations of the Cross, Scripture, Spiritual and/or Catechetical reading, family Rosary or Divine Mercy Chaplet. **ONE GIVE-UP:** Deny yourself something that you really like or are attached to. In addition to food and drink items, consider less time on social media and computer games, curtail addictive habits (smoking, drinking, etc.). Write these three items down so as to remind yourself daily.

Mass Schedule: I will offer three Masses to accommodate my three charges. On Wed, Feb. 17 the 9:00am Mass will be EXCLUSIVELY for All Saints Catholic School students and staff. Masses for the parishes will be at 6:00pm at SA and at 7:30pm at FX.

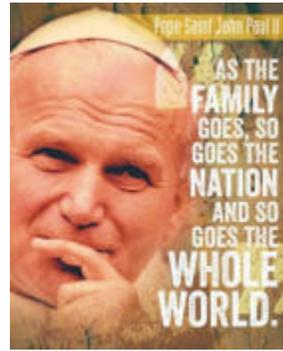


Stations of the Cross: All Saints Catholic School will host Children's Stations every Friday of Lent at 1:40pm at FX. Evening Stations will be at 7:00pm alternating between the two parishes beginning at SA. Those still concerned about attending in-person are encouraged to pray the Stations at home and as a Family.

SEVEN LAST WORDS OF JESUS by Leah M. Klett: 1. *Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do* (Lk 23:34).

In saying these words while enduring persecution at the hands of His enemies, Jesus was fulfilling the prophecy that He would make "intercession for the transgressors" (Is 53:12). Despite his agony, Jesus' concern was for the forgiveness of those who hated and despised Him. In His infinite mercy, Jesus still loved them and would have forgiven them had they humbled themselves and repented before Him.

What can we learn from this phrase? Although because of sin we, too, were enemies of God, He is ready and willing to forgive us of our sins, as Jesus' words demonstrate. When we understand the magnitude and depth of Christ's love for us, we, in turn, are able to unflinching "love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you" (Mt 5:44)?



FAMILIARIS CONSORTIO

II - SERVING LIFE

1. *The Transmission of Life*

Church: Teacher & Mother for Couples in Difficulty

33. In the field of conjugal morality the Church is Teacher and Mother and acts as such.

As Teacher, she never tires of proclaiming the moral norm that must guide the responsible transmission of life. The Church is in no way the author or the arbiter of this norm. In obedience to the truth which is Christ, whose image is reflected in the nature and dignity of the human person, the Church interprets the moral norm and proposes it to all people of good will, without concealing its demands of radicalness and perfection.

As Mother, the Church is close to married couples who find themselves in difficulty over this important point of the moral life: she knows well their situation, which is often very arduous and at times truly tormented by difficulties of every kind, not only individual difficulties but social ones as well...

But it is one and the same Church that is both Teacher and Mother. And so the Church never ceases to exhort and encourage all to resolve whatever conjugal difficulties may arise without ever falsifying or compromising the truth: she is convinced that there can be no true contradiction between the divine law on transmitting life and that on fostering authentic married love. Accordingly, the concrete pedagogy of the Church must always remain linked with her doctrine and never be separated from it. [...] authentic ecclesial pedagogy displays its realism and wisdom only by making a tenacious and courageous effort to create and uphold all the human conditions - psychological, moral and spiritual - indispensable for understanding and living the moral value and norm.

There is no doubt that these conditions must include persistence and patience, humility and strength of mind, filial trust in God and in His grace, and frequent recourse to prayer and the sacraments of the Eucharist and Reconciliation. Thus strengthened, Christian husbands and wives will be able to keep alive their awareness of the unique influence that the grace of the sacrament of marriage has on every aspect of married life, including therefore their sexuality: the gift of the Spirit, accepted and responded to by husband and wife, helps them to live their human sexuality in accordance with God's plan and as a sign of the unitive and fruitful love of Christ for His Church.

But the necessary conditions alone in the knowledge of the bodily aspect and the body's rhythms of fertility. Accordingly, every effort must be made to render such knowledge accessible to all married people and also to young adults before marriage, through clear, timely and serious instruction and education given by married couples, doctors and experts. Knowledge must then lead to education in self-control: hence the absolute necessity for the virtue of chastity... In the Christian view, chastity by no means signifies rejection of human sexuality or lack of esteem for it: rather it signifies spiritual energy capable of defending love from the perils of selfishness and aggressiveness, and able to advance it towards its full realization. [...]