



Sin and Reconciliation: A Communal Issue

There once was a seminary professor who wrote “Sin is everybody’s business” at the top of the blackboard as he began each class. One day, to make his point, the professor told the story of a young man who went to confession saying he sinned by starting a false rumor about someone. For his penance, the priest told the young man to empty a bag of feathers from the top of the tallest building he could find and then collect them all. The young man protested saying he could never get all the feathers back in the bag. The priest responded by saying, “That is how your sin affects the whole community.”

Sin, as it is looked at in the Scriptures, is first and foremost a transgression against God. It is also a break in the covenant with others in the community. If someone injured or cheated another, the whole community was affected. Reconciliation with God was then a community event and required restitution. Secondly, sin can be quite negative, a failure to do something to build up the community. Thirdly, as St. Paul and St. Luke tell us, God does not add up our sins to get even with us later. God is a loving Father waiting for us to come to our senses so He can rejoice with us! Remember the story of the Prodigal Son. God longs for our return and runs out to meet us when we come to our senses.

Reconciliation is healing broken relationships. It also involves recognizing our failure to do our part in developing the larger community and then doing something about it. Finally, it involves accepting God’s forgiveness and love for us. God’s forgiving love also encourages us to extend a like forgiveness to those who have hurt us. We can call that relative or neighbor who wronged us long ago and make peace before Easter. Perhaps we need to be first reconciled with ourselves, recognizing our sins and confidently opening our hearts to God’s forgiveness. We can then treasure the wonder that God makes us His children.

May this season of Lent bring us forgiveness, and ultimately true and lasting peace! The Sacrament of Reconciliation is celebrated here every Saturday afternoon from 2:30 until 3:30 and by appointment. Our parish Lenten Reconciliation Service will be held on Tuesday, April 4, at 7:00 P.M.

Father David

Parish Library Loan Period

We have several books from our Parish Library (located in the church Coat Room) that have been out beyond the loan period. If anyone still has books out beyond the initial “take out” period, please return them. If you would like to keep the book(s) for a longer period of time, please let us know and we would be happy to extend the loan period for you. Thank you.