

Sunday, April 7, 2019. Morning. In today's Gospel reading, the scribes and Pharisees call for someone to be stoned to death for committing a sin against the sixth commandment. We certainly do want to support marriage and discourage that which could bust up a marriage, but is the death penalty the answer?

Afternoon. If we make a mistake, do we really want to double down and continue in our error. The scribes and Pharisees come to Jesus and call for somebody to be stoned to death for sinning against the sixth commandment. Jesus does not answer. We hear how he bent down and wrote in the dust of the ground with his finger. In response the scribes and Pharisees double down and continue to make the accusation.

Evening. The scribes and Pharisees should have paused and wondered why Jesus was not responding to them in word, but was writing in the dirt. They do not allow their intentions to be modified by Jesus' reactions. Interaction with God has the power to transform them/us. But they did not pause and allow their motives to be transformed. When we go to Jesus in prayer, let us be open to being transformed and changed for the better.

Monday, April 8, 2019. Morning. In yesterday's Gospel reading, perhaps Jesus writes in the dirt the sins of the accusers. Regardless, the accusers disappear, presumably struck by Jesus' word, the one without sin may cast the first stone. Let us not forget our meditation of a month ago. Forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. We are making a promise. God forgives us of our sins and we forgive those who have sinned against us.

Afternoon. Yesterday's Gospel reading ends with Jesus forgiving the accused of her sin and calling her to sin no more. When we feel condemned, let us find the strength to withstand the shame and seek forgiveness, where we express sorrow for having sinned, promise not to sin again and receive forgiveness of our sin. The hero of the story is certainly the accused who stood strong through the accusations and eventually received forgiveness.

Evening. If we have not yet made at least one confession during this Lenten period, let us go on any Saturday afternoon, or during the particular afternoon or evening of Saturday or Sunday or Tuesday (April 13, 14, 16), or ask one of the priests to hear our confession at another time.

Tuesday, April 9, 2019. Morning. All you need to do is show up to confession with a contrite heart and a desire not to sin again... and pardon, peace and absolution is yours! In this past Sunday's Gospel reading, the accusers walked away still burdened by their sins. The accused would experience the feeling of peace coming over her as she is unburdened of her sin.

Afternoon. Trust. Jesus, I trust in Thee. Ten days from now, we begin the Divine Mercy Novena and continue through March 28, which is Divine Mercy Sunday. Saint Faustina's words "Jesus, I trust in Thee" being the words most associated with the Divine Mercy message. Let us recite those words in both good times and in bad. Trust.

Evening. The word "trust" appears 134 times in the Old Testament alone. And this is not counting the other variations such as "trusting," etcetera. A key element of our relationship with God is that of trust. Let those times in our past life when we were spared and when we somehow survived assure us that we can trust in God in the present and into the future.

Wednesday, April 10, 2019. Morning. Monks and Nuns in monasteries spend hours every day praying the psalms. Let us take a moment to align with our brothers and sisters who have dedicated themselves to that life of prayer as we consider a few verses of the psalms. "trust in the Lord now and forever"; "for I put my trust in the Lord"; "my Savior in whom I put my trust."

Afternoon. The two great commandments are: love God and love neighbor. Essential to these commandments are trust God and trust our neighbor. The second of these takes some explanation and consideration. Let us spend the next few days considering the importance of trusting our family members and friends.

Evening. As newborn babes, we are completely dependent on our parents. Over the next several years we become dependent on other family members as well as teachers and coaches and other adults in the community. As children, we need to be able to trust that these adults will act in our own best interest. As adults, we are to be trustworthy and care for children. In addition, as adults we are called to care for our aging parents.

Thursday, April 11, 2019. Morning. In our teenage years and early twenties, we begin to desire to trust our peers and have them trust us. Friendships are based on trust. Romantic relationships are based on trust. In order to

enjoy that closeness that friendships and romantic relationships have to offer, we need to open ourselves up to others and make ourselves vulnerable. That takes trust.

Afternoon. To avoid being hurt or taken advantage of by a friend or a girl- or boy-friend, we need to vet that person. We must not trust them immediately. We must be patient. We should be slow in opening up to them. We must pick and choose and test those whom we will trust. We must vet them.

Evening. Those who are called to marriage must take special care to vet the person they are dating, the person they are engaged to. Is this person capable of being faithful to me for decades? Is this person capable of living a happy and healthy life for the next several decades?

Friday, April 12, 2019. Morning. Those who are called to marriage must ask the same questions of themselves. Am I capable of being faithful to one person for the next several decades? Am I capable of living a happy and healthy life for the next several decades?

Afternoon. Dating and Engagement ride the wave of two people being madly in love with one another. But decades of staying married requires two mature people who have the ability to be faithful to one another and who have the ability to live a happy and healthy life. For a husband and wife to trust one another, these two criteria must be met and lived out by both parties.

Evening. Our late teens and early twenties offer a wonderful opportunity for us to work on what we need to live out a happy and healthy life. If we find that we do not have what it takes to be faithful, let us work on that now, before we get married. If any of us, regardless of whether called to marriage or not, find that we have any self-destructive or dysfunctional tendencies, let us work on them now.

Saturday, April 13, 2019. Morning. We definitely want to come out of our teenage and early twenties fully capable of being faithful to another as well as capable of living a life that is free from addiction, sabotage, controlling behavior or anything else that would prevent us and anyone linked to us from enjoying a happy and healthy life for decades to come.

Afternoon. As little children, we trusted our parents, so as adult children our aging parents are to trust us. As all of us grow into our golden senior years, we must make peace with the reality that we just cannot do what we used to be able to do. We need to trust that others will help take care of us.

Evening. During our wildly successful middle-age years when we are climbing the corporate ladder and packing money away into IRA's to prepare for our retirement, let us remember that it is the investment in our own young children that will most determine the quality of our retirement, during those years when we become more and more dependent on our adult children to take care of us as we age.