

## Q & A from Lenten Webinar by Joe Paprocki – 2/12/13

Annie

Q: Do you know of a prayer that can be used with grades K-7 about what it means to "follow" Jesus That is our Lenten theme and I need a prayer that the school can recite together each week

A: Annie, I found this online:

### **PRAYER FOR FOLLOWING CHRIST**

Almighty God,  
our hope and strength,  
without you we falter.  
Help us to follow Christ  
and to live according to your will.  
We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever. AMEN

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Carmel

Q: What can be done to reach parishes to truly emphasize intimacy with Jesus and the following of Jesus? We are still stressing membership in an institution -- even if it is the Catholic Church - Body of Christ

A: Carmel, I personally believe this has to happen at the grassroots level, particularly in small faith communities. People need to encounter Jesus in sharing their faith and then invite others to do the same. That's different than inviting people to register as a parishioner.

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Albert

Q: I'm a religious educator in the high school level I get always get asked: If there is a God, then why all the sufferings in our world? I respond: If Jesus is God's son, then why would he allow for us mortals to brutalize and kill him? Is that a good approach to encourage critical thinking?

A: Albert, thanks for your ministry as a high school religious educator...no easy task! They do indeed ask the tough questions. I do think it is good to encourage critical thinking at that age instead of trying to supply "easy" answers of which there are none for a topic like suffering. By the same token, be cautious about making it sound like God "arranged" for his Son to experience such brutality. I think it is enough to say that suffering entered the world as a result of human sin, that it is not God's will that we suffer, and that God sent his only Son to be with us and he himself endured great suffering which reminds us that we can join our sufferings to Christ's so that they may be transformed in his Resurrection.

Sharon

Q: I believe that I am saved, I believe in Jesus and still I experience fear in some of the trials of my life. Is this Satan, the great deceiver or my mere humanity?

A: Sharon, fear is a normal human emotion, not easily overcome. The Resurrection of Jesus gives us a reason to overcome fear, but that doesn't necessarily happen very easily for most of us. We continue to need to be strengthened by the Eucharist so that we carry the Risen Christ within us through life. Satan indeed sows doubt and fear but, through the Resurrection, God has defeated him and we need only to align ourselves with the "victor" of that struggle – the One who says, "Peace be with you. Do not be afraid."

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Sara

Q: I was wondering how can I build a better relationship with Jesus... feeling a little lost in life and I work for a Catholic Church and I pray for Guidance and Strength but feel like I'm not being a good Christian because I feel this way

A: Carrie provided a very nice answer: "It is normal to have doubts, even Christ asked God to spare him his fate of death. I highly recommend you read *A Friendship Like No Other*. Visit the free blog [www.ignatianspirituality.com](http://www.ignatianspirituality.com). Anything on Ignatian Spirituality will help build your prayer life and relationship in Christ. Give yourself credit for trying too. 😊"

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Timothy

Q: can we get the citation from the last side on commitment to Christ one more time?

A: I believe you are looking for this:

"– this comprehensive formation includes more than instruction: it is an apprenticeship of the entire Christian life." (GDC 67)

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Eden

Q: How would you know if your plan is God's plan for you?

A: Eden, that is the age-old question and the reason we pray, "thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven." In Catholic tradition, we talk about the process of *discernment* – a type of spiritual decision-making in which we strive to discover God's will for us in life. 📖 Here is a good Web page for learning more about Ignatian discernment: <http://www.ignatianspirituality.com/making-good-decisions/>

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Kathleen

Q: What is the book about having a friendship with Christ called?

A: Kathleen, the book is [A Friendship Like No Other](#) by Rev. William Barry, SJ.

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[www.catechistsjourney.com](http://www.catechistsjourney.com)