

“Are not two sparrows sold for a small coin? Yet not one of them falls to the ground without your Father’s knowledge. Even all the hairs of your head are counted. So do not be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows.”

- Mt 10:29-31

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

Questions of the Week

Invite Parishioners to Reflect and Respond to Scripture

First Reading

We hear how the prophet Jeremiah turned to God when he felt alone and attacked. What do you need to pray to God for this week?

Second Reading

Paul taught that through the grace of God, Christ reversed the sin of Adam, which brought death to all. When have you felt God’s grace in your life?

Gospel Reading

Jesus encourages his disciples not to be afraid. What are some fears you have that you could turn over to God?



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“IF, THEN, WE HAVE DIED WITH CHRIST, WE BELIEVE THAT WE SHALL ALSO LIVE WITH HIM.”

- ROMANS 6:8

APOSTLES OF CHRIST

(PRACTICING) CATHOLIC

The Necklace

I have a necklace that originally belonged to my great-grandmother. I don't really know much about the man who gave it to her, most of those details have been lost to time. But I know that he wanted to marry her, and that she refused, and it had something to do with religion — ultimately, he did not share her faith. And while I've certainly seen many interfaith couples have loving and successful marriages, in this particular case, my great-grandmother discerned that this would not be one of those marriages.

Like I said, I don't have many details about this man, but I know that she felt she couldn't marry him because it might jeopardize the souls of her children, and therefore the souls of their children, and their children after them — me. She turned him down because of me.

My great-grandmother never sold that necklace, not even when the Great Depression further reduced her financial circumstances. She kept it, and she gave it to her daughter, who gave it to her daughter, who gave it to me. The necklace is always given with a warning: there is something worse than being poor, worse than being scared, worse even than being desperate. Worse than all of these things is separation from God.

When I wear this necklace, I think about my grandmother and this man she possibly loved a hundred years ago. I think of the many decisions we make every day — large and small, good and bad — that reverberate down through the generations in ways we cannot, at the time, imagine. I think of the God who knows every hair on my head.

“And do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather, be afraid of the one who can destroy both soul and body in Gehenna.”
— Matthew 10:28

Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

Why do we do that? Catholic Life Explained

Question:

What is Lectio Divina, and how is it associated with the Benedictine Monastic tradition, whose founder, St. Benedict, we honor on July 11?

Answer:

Benedict desired his monks to live in community, praying the Liturgy of the Hours together, contemplating sacred texts, and doing manual labor. The monks developed a technique to facilitate a spiritual and devotional reading of the Bible known as Lectio Divina, the holy reading of a text. This method encourages the reader to hear the biblical text with an open heart and focus on whatever God wants to highlight and then apply it to daily life.

There are variations on Lectio Divina, but essentially, the technique consists of a three-step process of reflection. When the reflection is done with a group, the responses are shared by all the participants. Once the text is selected, it is read meditatively, and the following are then explored: a word or phrase that attracts you; how and where the content of this reading touches your life today; what you believe that God wants you to do during this coming week (month, year, lifetime).

Thanks to Benedict, the Christian community has been gifted with this special way of entering into the biblical text. This week, use the Lectio Divina process on one of the readings for the coming Sunday and make a note of the life connections you are making. How is this reflection on the biblical text drawing you closer to God and others?