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OCIA Precatechumenate Lesson Plans 11-20

God's Gift of Unity

The Church's Good News: The Infinite Love of God

God created all things out of love and to share in relationship with Him and with each other. God's love is personal, proven, merciful, and offered.

[Gen 1:26-2:3](#)

Out of love, God created man – similarly to how a couple who falls in love decides to get married and begin a family.

God made man in His own image to live in relationship with God and to care and tend for all of material creation.

God created man in harmony with others, with all created things, and with harmony within himself.

God gifted man with the faculties of power, the ability to possess, and the ability to experience pleasure so that man may serve and build up the good.

Man's Conundrum

Man was created free and with the ability to either cooperate with God's plan of goodness or to exalt himself and follow his own will instead.

After man began to sin, he lost the harmony with which he was created.

[Gen 11:1-9](#)

[Man is now tempted to seek after power, pleasure, and possessions as his *ultimate good* instead of *in service to the good*.](#)

[Human beings have the capacity to do great good, and, due to sin, the capacity to serve oneself at the expense of others.](#)



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God's plan for man is for unity and for harmonious relationships. God's plan is also to invite man to participate in carrying out God's loving providence toward his neighbor and toward other creatures (CCC 306-308).

As man was growing in his power to exalt himself and abuse created goods, God confused human language. Man was left in a state contrary to God's plan.

God's Solution: Unity and The Church

God sent His Son Jesus Christ, who took on flesh by being born of the Virgin Mary, to enter into man's state and commune with him.

Jesus Christ is not only a model of holiness, but He has also atoned for the sins of man, which man cannot remove himself.

[Acts 2:1-14, 22-24, 32-33, 37-39](#)

After Jesus Christ died for our sins, rose from the dead, and ascended into heaven, God sent the gift of the Holy Spirit to restore mankind to relationship with God and with his fellow man.

Would you like to make an act of faith in Jesus Christ and receive God's gift of the Holy Spirit?

Lord Jesus, I confess that I have done wrong and failed to do right.

I ask you to be my savior, my guide, and my friend.

I invite your Holy Spirit to enlighten my mind and transform my heart.

I ask for your help to be obedient to You and live in communion with your Church.

I here and now answer your call to follow you.

Amen

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.



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A Call from God

The Church's Good News: The Infinite Love of God

God created all things out of love and to share in relationship with Him and with each other. God's love is personal, proven, merciful, and offered.

Jeremiah 1:5, Jeremiah 29:11

The Good News of Creation

Our relationship with God is a journey of faith that leads to an intimate friendship with God. God has revealed Himself to us through creation and we can come to a knowledge of His existence by the use of reason.

Human intelligence is surely already capable of finding a response to the question of origins. The existence of God the Creator can be known with certainty through his works, by the light of human reason, even if this knowledge is often obscured and disfigured by error. That is why faith comes to confirm and enlighten reason in the correct understanding of this truth... Beyond the natural knowledge that every man can have of the Creator, God progressively revealed to Israel the mystery of creation. He who chose the patriarchs, who brought Israel out of Egypt, and who by choosing Israel created and formed it, this same God reveals himself as the One to whom belong all the peoples of the earth, and the whole earth itself; he is the One who alone "made heaven and earth".

CCC 289-287

God Desires Relationship with Each and Every Person

God also breaks into human history to reveal Himself personally.

Read the story of Abraham, our father of the Faith.

Genesis 12:1-9

Acts of faith always involve a "leap" so to speak, and utilize our trust that God is all good, all loving, and all powerful. Faith is never negating our use of reason but uses our gift of reason to its highest degree.



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When God breaks into Abram's life, Abram often builds an altar. This is a point of communion with God and is a memorial that God has broken into Abram's life in space and time. Journaling or visiting a Church can be "altar experiences" for us.

Our faith is realized when we act on it. This is seen in Abram's obedience to God, and each instance of his obedience either begins his relationship with God or deepens his relationship with God.

Faith and the Church

God's plan is to unite humanity through the Church as we see in His promise to Abram. Jesus gives us Mary as a model of faith and Jesus Himself becomes our blessing.

[Luke 1:26-56](#)

We enter into a relationship with the Church by making the faith of the Church our own.

Belonging to the Church

The Good News of Jesus Christ as Savior.

[Romans 3:23](#)

[Romans 6:23](#)

[Romans 5:8](#)

[Romans 10:9-10](#)

[Romans 8:15](#)

[Acts 2:38-39](#)

How does this message resonate with you?
Are you feeling drawn to follow Jesus Christ?

*Lord Jesus, I confess that I have done wrong and failed to do right.
I ask you to be my savior, my guide, and my friend.
I invite your Holy Spirit to enlighten my mind and transform my heart.
I ask for your help to be obedient to You and live in communion with your Church.
I here and now answer your call to follow you.
Amen.*



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God's Faithfulness

The Church's Good News: The Infinite Love of God

God created all things out of love and to share in relationship with Him and with each other. God's love is personal, proven, merciful, and offered.

Psalm 139:1-3, 13-15

The Good News of Creation

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CCC 289-287

God Desires Relationship with Each and Every Person

God also breaks into human history to reveal Himself personally.

Continue reading the story of Abraham, our father of the Faith.

Genesis 17:1-24, 21:1-7

Acts of faith always involve a "leap" so to speak, and utilize our trust that God is all good, all loving, and all powerful. Faith is never negating our use of reason but uses our gift of reason to its highest degree.



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The Good News of Jesus Christ as Savior.

[Romans 3:23](#)

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I ask for your help to be obedient to You and live in communion with your Church.
I here and now answer your call to follow you. Amen.*



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God Reveals His Saving Plan

The Church's Good News: The Infinite Love of God

God created all things out of love and to share in relationship with Him and with each other. God's love is personal, proven, merciful, and offered.

[1 John 4:7-12](#)

The Good News of Creation

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Human intelligence is surely already capable of finding a response to the question of origins. The existence of God the Creator can be known with certainty through his works, by the light of human reason, even if this knowledge is often obscured and disfigured by error. That is why faith comes to confirm and enlighten reason in the correct understanding of this truth... Beyond the natural knowledge that every man can have of the Creator, God progressively revealed to Israel the mystery of creation. He who chose the patriarchs, who brought Israel out of Egypt, and who by choosing Israel created and formed it, this same God reveals himself as the One to whom belong all the peoples of the earth, and the whole earth itself; he is the One who alone "made heaven and earth".

[CCC 289-287](#)

God Desires Relationship with Each and Every Person

God also breaks into human history to reveal Himself personally.

Continue reading the story of Abraham, our father of the faith.

[Genesis 22:1-19](#)

Abraham answered God's call to follow Him, and in response God offered Abraham intimate friendship.



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God allowed Abraham to test his faith in God's promise. Abraham knew that it was God's will that Isaac carry on the promised blessing, but he also knew that he could put nothing above His love and obedience to God.

Heb 11:17-19

Isaac was a strong young man, able to carry the wood for the sacrifice up the mountain. Isaac trusted God and allowed himself to be bound as he participated in this prophetic act, he knew God was asking of both Abraham and himself.

God allowed Abraham and Isaac to participate in His own heart and feel what God felt as Jesus offered Himself to the Father for the salvation and blessing of all nations.

Faith and the Church

Mary is the mother of the Church. Jesus is the fulfillment of the prophetic act of Isaac, and Mary participates in offering Jesus Christ for the salvation of all mankind with hope of the Resurrection.

John 19:17-30

Would you like to accept God's gift of Salvation and enter into relationship with the Church?

Lord Jesus, I confess that I have done wrong and failed to do right.

I ask you to be my savior, my guide, and my friend.

I invite your Holy Spirit to enlighten my mind and transform my heart.

I ask for your help to be obedient to You and live in communion with your Church.

I here and now answer your call to follow you.

Amen.

You are Chosen

The Church's Good News: The Infinite Love of God

God created all things out of love and to share in relationship with Him and with each other. God's love is personal, proven, merciful, and offered.

Ephesians 1:3-6

God is all-powerful, all-present, and all-knowing. He is the source of all that is good, beautiful, and true.

God brought all of creation into existence out of an abundance of His love, similar to how a couple in love decides to get married and have a family.

God desires to lavish blessings on His children. God created a world in which man is meant to live in harmony with God, with himself, with his fellow man, and with creation.

God's Plan and Abundant Life

Read the story of God's attentive love toward Isaac and how God desires to bless all nations through His particular relationship with Isaac.

Genesis 24, 26:1-5

God knows each of His followers personally and has a plan for his/her happiness. God also personally calls all those who do not know Him or are not yet following Him.

When we answer God's call it leads to a supernaturally peace, even amidst the difficulties of striving to live according to the holiness and dignity to which we are called.

Every person is free to accept God's plan or reject God's plan. God is all-loving and asks man to trust Him, and, out of love, He never forces Himself on us.



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Man's Need for a Savior

Man experiences a desire to live in a world free of violence, hatred, and division. Man, also experiences a desire for happiness and unity.

Man experiences the evil effects of the bad choices of others, especially when persons choose out of selfishness and exploit others.

Our first parents, Adam, and Eve, were created in perfect harmony, but used their free will to choose power, pleasure, and possessions as their ultimate good instead of using them to serve God and His perfect plan.

Each person has made choices he/she is not proud of and needs a God who is all powerful to forgive and restore the goodness mistakenly lost.

Jesus Christ took on flesh in order to be a model of holiness and provide help for the sanctity man was designed to live according to. Jesus Christ took on the effects of man's sins and defeated the forces of evil through His Cross and Resurrection.

Jesus offers this abundant life to each of His followers. Read this account of Him receiving those searching for God's peace.

John 1:35-42

John the Baptist identifies Jesus as the Lamb of God, a title at which these disciples could recognize Jesus as the Savior - the One God had promised who could restore man to the goodness and harmony with which he was created.

Jesus invites all who approach Him into relationship and reveals He has a plan for self-giving, abundant life for each of His followers.

Would you like to answer the call to follow Jesus and experience life in Him through communion with the Church?



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Lord Jesus, I confess that I have done wrong and failed to do right.

I ask you to be my savior, my guide, and my friend.

I invite your Holy Spirit to enlighten my mind and transform my heart.

I ask for your help to be obedient to You and live in communion with your Church.

I here and now answer your call to follow you.

Amen.

Beginning a Life of Prayer

Start with taking about 10-15 minutes a day to:

- Read a passage from the Bible
- Thank God for making you and for all the blessings in your life
- Ask God to show you some ways you can grow
- Ask God to make Himself further known to you
- Ask God for the things you need and for the needs of others



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God Bestows His Blessing

The Church's Good News: The Infinite Love of God

God created all things out of love and to share in relationship with Him and with each other. God's love is personal, proven, merciful, and offered.

Psalm 145:14-19

"The human person: with his openness to truth and beauty, his sense of moral goodness, his freedom and the voice of his conscience, with his longings for the infinite and for happiness, man questions himself about God's existence. In all this he discerns signs of his spiritual soul. The soul, the "seed of eternity we bear in ourselves, irreducible to the merely material", can have its origin only in God." (CCC 33)

God desires to make Himself known and to bless His children.

Read the story of Jacob and how he tries to obtain God's blessing through cunning, but then suffers as things go terribly wrong. See how God then, out of His goodness, reveals Himself to Jacob as loving and benevolent, and desires to bless Jacob when he is most in need.

Genesis 25:19-28; 27:1-29, 41-45; 28:10-17

Man was created good and harmonious by God. Man's desires for happiness, goodness, beauty, truth, and unity bear witness to this.

Man was created with the faculties to possess, to have dominion over creation, and to experience pleasure to empower him in carrying out the good.

Man's first parents, Adam and Eve, chose to use their free will to seek selfish ambition and self-gratification instead of participating in God's loving plan.

Jacob in this account, uses cunning to try and obtain blessing – but in the end loses his home. In this state of vulnerability, God breaks into Jacob's life and reveals Himself as good, loving, and provident. God promises to care for Jacob, provide for Jacob, and then bless others through His relationship with Jacob.

Man's Need for a Savior

Man experiences a desire to be happy and to do the good he has a sense he "ought" to do.

No matter how much effort man puts in, he is incapable of avoiding all selfishness and of hurting others.

God looked with compassion on man's plight and sent Jesus Christ, God who took on flesh, to show man the goodness for which he was created. Jesus Christ took on the effects of man's sin, which man cannot undo without the help of an all-good and all-powerful God.

Read the account of Jesus calling another disciple and revealing that His Divinity. Jesus Christ lovingly took on flesh in order to provide man with a relationship with God he can see, hear, and touch.

John 1:43-51

God is intimately familiar with the being and heart of each of His created children.

In this account, Jesus reveals He knows of Nathaniel's love for the good, even before Nathaniel meets Jesus in person.

Nathaniel recognizes Jesus as his Savior. Jesus reveals to Nathaniel that He comes from heaven and is the one who has revealed Himself personally to his ancestor Jacob and the nation of Israel.

Would you like to accept Jesus' invitation to relationship and follow Him by entering into communion with the Church?

Lord Jesus, I confess that I have done wrong and failed to do right.

I ask you to be my savior, my guide, and my friend.

I invite your Holy Spirit to enlighten my mind and transform my heart.

I ask for your help to be obedient to You and live in communion with your Church.

I here and now answer your call to follow you.

Amen.

Divine Revelation

As we have seen in this account, God not only reveals Himself through all of creation, but personally breaks into the space and time of human history to reveal Himself to man in a relational way.

These friends of God have passed down accounts of the words and deeds of God, and many witnesses were inspired by the Holy Spirit and wrote them down in the Sacred Scriptures.

In the Sacred Scriptures we see the account of God lovingly creating man, man falling into temptation and rejecting God, and then God’s pursuit of mankind through the Chosen People of the Jewish nation, and then most fully through Jesus Christ, God Incarnate. Sometimes things in the Bible get pretty low, as we see man descend to his depths of misery, his personal evil, and his need for God. (CCC 121-133)

Jesus Christ is our model, our hope, and our Salvation.

Structure of the Bible: Two Main Parts

1. <u>Old Testament</u> - Preparing for the coming of Jesus Christ	2. <u>New Testament</u> - The coming of Jesus Christ and the living story of the Church
<p><u>Pentateuch</u>: First Five Books (Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy)</p> <p><u>Historical Books</u>: Joshua, Judges, Ruth, 1-2 Samuel, 1-2 Kings, 1-2 Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, 1-2 Maccabees, Tobit, Judith and Esther</p> <p><u>Books of Wisdom</u>: Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs, Wisdom and Sirach</p> <p><u>Prophetic Books</u>: Isaiah, Jeremiah, Lamentations, Baruch, Ezekiel, Daniel, Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi</p>	<p><u>Gospel Accounts of Jesus Christ</u> (Historical): Matthew, Mark, Luke, John</p> <p><u>Historical Book</u>: Acts of the Apostles</p> <p><u>Letters from the Apostles</u>: Romans, 1-2 Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Colossians, Philippians, 1-2 Thessalonians, 1-2 Timothy, Titus and Philemon, The Letter to the Hebrews, James, 1-2 Peter, 1,2 and 3 John and Jude</p> <p><u>Prophetic Book</u>: Book of Revelation</p>



Here are some stories you can read from the Old Testament:

- The Story of Creation (Genesis 1-3)
- Noah and the Flood (Genesis 6-9)
- The Story of Abraham (Genesis 12, 17, 18:1-15, 21:1-8, 22, 24)
- Abraham's Son, Isaac (Genesis 24)
- Isaac's Son, Jacob (Genesis 25:19-34, 27-33)
- Jacob's Son, Joseph (Genesis 37, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46)
- Moses and the Exodus from Egypt (Genesis 1-20)
- Joshua and the Battle of Jericho (Genesis 1-3, 6)
- The Story of Ruth (Ruth 1-4)
- The Story of Samuel (I Samuel 1, 3)
- The Nation of Israel asks for a King (I Samuel 8-9)
- The Anointing of David (I Samuel 15:10-16:13)
- David and Goliath (I Samuel 17)
- The Wisdom of King Solomon (I Samuel 3)
- The Prophet Elijah (1 Kings 18)
- The Prophets Elijah and Elisha (II Kings 2:1-18)
- Elisha Miraculously Feeds the Widow and Her Son (II Kings 4:1-7)



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God's Blessing and Reconciliation

The Church's Good News: The Infinite Love of God

God created all things out of love and to share in relationship with Him and with each other. God's love is personal, proven, merciful, and offered.

Rev 4:11

Psalm 104:24

Psalm 145:9

"We believe that God created the world according to his wisdom. It is not the product of any necessity whatever, nor of blind fate or chance. We believe that it proceeds from God's free will; he wanted to make his creatures share in his being, wisdom, and goodness."

Catechism of the Catholic Church 295

God desires to make Himself known and to bless His children.

Continue reading the story of Jacob and how by God's providence he grew in property and started a family while serving in the household of his uncle, Laban. Jacob's tendency toward cunning resulted in trouble many times, and he was also the victim of cunning as the Lord worked to purify him. Jacob is now called by God to return to his homeland.

Genesis 31:55 - 33:11

God loved Jacob and had a plan to bless him, even from before his birth. (Gen 25:23) Jacob had a desire to live God's blessing but tried to obtain it by using his own means instead of by serving and trusting God.

Jacob lived for God's blessing and, even though at times he did so imperfectly, pursued it with all his might.

For this reason, God changed Jacob's name to Israel, and he became the father of the great nation.

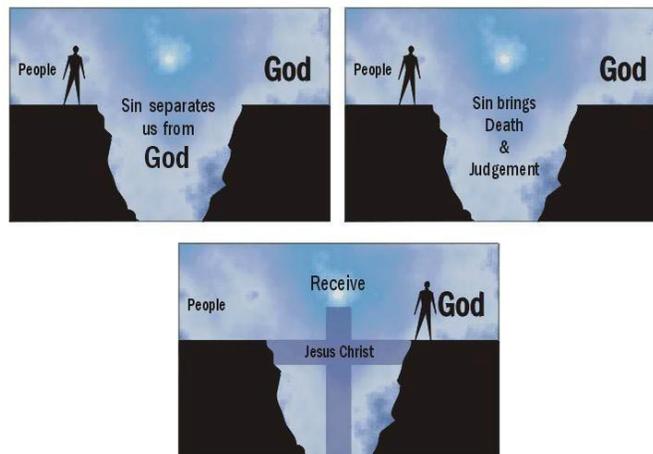
Receiving God's Blessing Through Jesus Christ

As we see in the account of the life of Jacob, God created every person with a blessing in mind for his or her life.

Man is able to grasp some of this goodness, but, due to sin, also uses his free will to pursue power, pleasure, and possessions as his ultimate good instead of in service of the good God has in store for him.

Sin is this tendency in man to act out of selfishness at the expense of others.

This sin separates man from God, who is all good.



Jesus Christ, God Incarnate, came to save man from his sinful state and to reconcile us with God.

Matt 26:30-56
Phil 2:1-11

Man, wrestles to trust God and serve Him in obedience. Jesus Christ came to live the obedience which man, on his own, is incapable of.

At the will of the Father, Jesus Christ submitted to the humiliating and torturous death of crucifixion to atone for the effects of man's sins, by which man severely hurts himself and others.

By humbling Himself in this way, Jesus obtained blessing and new life for all His followers who accept His gift of salvation by living in communion with His Church.



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Would you like to accept God's blessing through Jesus Christ by living in communion with His Church?

Lord Jesus, I confess that I have done wrong and failed to do right.

I ask you to be my savior, my guide, and my friend.

I invite your Holy Spirit to enlighten my mind and transform my heart.

I ask for your help to be obedient to You and live in communion with your Church.

I here and now answer your call to follow you.

Amen.



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God's Steadfast Love and Salvation

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Rev 4:11

Psalms 104:24

Psalms 145:9

"We believe that God created the world according to his wisdom. It is not the product of any necessity whatever, nor of blind fate or chance. We believe that it proceeds from God's free will; he wanted to make his creatures share in his being, wisdom, and goodness."

Catechism of the Catholic Church 295

God's love is steadfast and is always with His children.

Jacob had 12 sons, one of which was Joseph who saved his family from famine. Jacob's family struggled to follow God and learned over time that God never revokes His promise to bless and provide. Begin reading the story of Joseph and his brothers.

Genesis 37 and 39

Jacob treated Joseph with favoritism, which affected his family's capacity to live in unity.

Jacob's sons chose to act out of vengeance and betrayed their brother Joseph, both endangering Joseph's life and bringing grief upon their father.

Joseph in the beginning needed to be purified, but he never lost trust in God. Even when his circumstances were most bleak, Joseph chose to act with integrity and selflessness. Because of this, God was able to continue blessing him and other people through him.

Eventually, Joseph's wisdom helps save Egypt from famine and he rises to a position of power, by which he was able to save many lives.

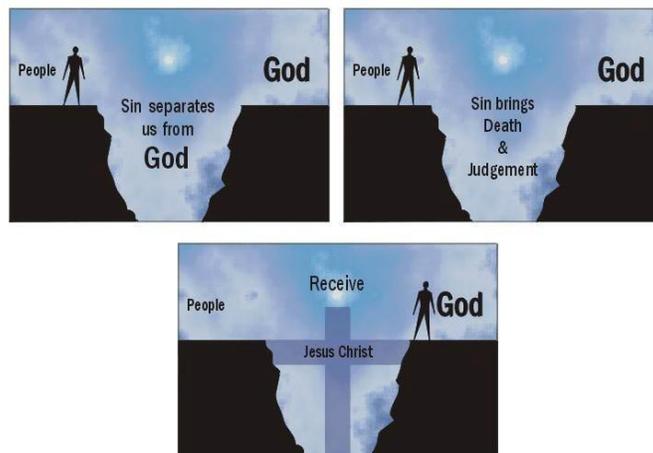
Jesus Christ as Conqueror of Evil

God created man in His own image and to be His stewards of creation. Man possesses within himself a great capacity to do good.

Man is created with free will and with the power to choose to serve God in His plan of loving providence, or to follow his own will for selfish ambition.

No matter how much effort man puts forth, he is unable to live a life free of hurting both himself and others. Man's inability to love perfectly is called sin.

This sin separates man from God, who is all good.



Jesus Christ, God Incarnate, came to save man from his sinful state and to reconcile him with God.

Luke 23:1-5, 20-23, 26-49

Similar to Joseph, Jesus Christ was betrayed by those who were closest to him.

Instead of retaliating, God who took on flesh, chose to take on all of man's evil and show us an example of forgiveness and understanding.

Because of this victory over the forces of evil and evil itself, Jesus rose again glorified and entered heaven triumphant.

All those who look at Jesus, believe in Jesus, love Jesus, and follow Jesus are offered this new life of salvation by living in communion with the Church.

Would you like to offer God your sins and receive forgiveness through Jesus Christ, and follow Him by living in communion with His Church?

Lord Jesus, I confess that I have done wrong and failed to do right.

I ask you to be my savior, my guide, and my friend.

I invite your Holy Spirit to enlighten my mind and transform my heart.

I ask for your help to be obedient to You and live in communion with your Church.

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God's Loving Providence

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Psalm 145:8-9, 13b-16

God's Loving Providence

Continue reading the story of Joseph, where God uses the evil in his life to bring about a greater good than Joseph ever could have imagined.

Genesis 41:1-42:11, 42:18-28, 44:18-45:15

Joseph experienced betrayal at the hand of his brothers, the ones who should have helped provide and care for him.

Instead of becoming consumed with bitterness, Joseph submitted to God and served Him with integrity.

God blessed Joseph and used him to save nations from being wiped out from famine.

When Joseph met his brothers once again, he was able to witness their personal conversion as they experienced sorrow for their sin of betrayal toward him.

God restored Joseph's family life after Joseph had submitted to suffering with faith and hope for the Lord.

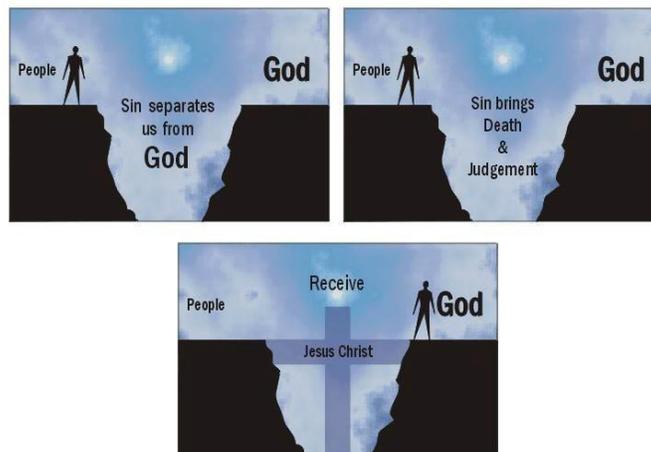
The suffering and Resurrection of Jesus Christ offers us new life.

God created man in His own image and to participate in His loving plan of providence for his fellow man and for creation. Man possesses within himself a great capacity to do good.

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Matt 28:1-10

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Because of this victory over the forces of evil and evil itself, Jesus rose again glorified and entered heaven triumphant.

All those who believe in Jesus, love Jesus, and follow Jesus are offered this new life of salvation by living in communion with the Church.

We firmly believe that God is master of the world and of its history...In time we can discover that God in his almighty Providence can bring a good from the consequences of an evil, even a moral evil, caused by his creatures. (CCC 314, 312)

Would you like to make an act of faith in God's providence and follow Jesus Christ by living in communion with His Church?

Lord Jesus, I confess that I have done wrong and failed to do right.

I ask you to be my savior, my guide, and my friend.

I invite your Holy Spirit to enlighten my mind and transform my heart.

I ask for your help to be obedient to You and live in communion with your Church.

I here and now answer your call to follow you.

Amen.



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The Steadfast Love of God

The Church's Good News: The Infinite Love of God

God created all things out of love and to share in relationship with Him and with each other. God's love is personal, proven, merciful, and offered.

Psalm 145:8-9, 13b-16

God is creator of all that is, and attentively watches over and provides for all of creation.

God is self-giving love, and He created man in His image and likeness to also love and care for those in need.

Man is called to give of himself and serve. Man has the capacity to use his gifts and talents for the good of all, or to seek to dominate or exploit others.

God's Cares for His Children

Read the account of Jacob's descendants in Egypt and of God calling Moses to participate in His plan of salvation.

Exodus 1:1-3:15

God created man for relationship with God and with his fellow man. God desires to bless His children and that they in turn bless and care for each other.

God continued to bless His people with His steadfast love while they were dwelling in Egypt, and they were a blessing to the nation of Egypt.

The king of Egypt chose to act out of selfish ambition, and opposed God's loving plan for the Israelite people.

God protected Moses' life and invited Him to help God carry out His plan of redemption for His chosen people.

God reveals Himself to Moses as Lord of all that is, as everlasting, as omnipotent (all-powerful), full of compassion, just, and desiring to bless His followers.

God invites Moses into intimate relationship and promises that He will always be with Moses.

God Reveals Himself in the Person of Jesus Christ

Mankind is made in the image of God and is called to love in the way that God loves.

Man is capable of great good. Man also struggles against his tendency toward selfishness and the desire to make power, possessions, and pleasure his ultimate goods, instead of using them in service to the good.

In this, man greatly offends God who is all loving and all just.

Instead of condemning man, God took on flesh and came in the person of Jesus Christ, born of the Virgin Mary.

Jesus comes to lead man out of his state of sin, which holds him in bondage, similar to how Moses was called to lead the Israelites out the bondage of the king of Egypt.

Read the account of Jesus coming to His people.

Mark 1:1-15

John was baptizing people in the Jordan who wanted to leave their life of sin (repent) and follow God's plan of holiness for their lives.

Jesus, God Incarnate, entered into man's baptism of repentance in order intimately unite Himself to our struggles, take our sins upon Himself and forgive us, and to offer man God's help in the Holy Spirit.

Jesus revealed that God desires to adopt each person as His beloved son or daughter when he or she believes in Jesus Christ and receives the gift of Baptism, given by God through the Church.

Jesus Came to Lead Man to Salvation

Jesus went into the wilderness following His baptism in order to triumph over the temptations of the Devil, who tries to persuade man to lose trust in his creator, abuse his freedom, and disobey God's command (CCC 397).

Jesus obtained an ultimate victory over evil through his crucifixion, Resurrection, and Ascension into Heaven.

Jesus offers man a new way of living, that of the Gospel lived out through communion with the Church.

Would you like to make an act of faith in Jesus Christ and in the Gospel and enter into relationship with the Church?

Lord Jesus, I confess that I have done wrong and failed to do right.

I ask you to be my savior, my guide, and my friend.

I invite your Holy Spirit to enlighten my mind and transform my heart.

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