

PARISH FAMILY ABLAZE (11-3-19)

HAIL, HOLY QUEEN (MOTHER OF FREEDOM AND QUEEN OF THE FREE)

Hail, Holy Queen, Mother of Mercy,
Hail our life, our sweetness, and our hope!
To thee do we cry, poor banished children of Eve.
To thee do we send up our sighs,
mourning and weeping, in this vale of tears!
Turn, then, most gracious Advocate, thine eyes of mercy toward us,
and after this our exile,
show unto us the blessed fruit of thy womb, Jesus.
O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary.

THE HOLY SPIRIT OF FREEDOM

- I. Freedom in Eternity
 - A. An expression of God's freedom is the Holy Spirit—perfect, true love freely exchanged in truth between the Father and the Son.
 - B. “Now the Lord is Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom” (2 Corinthians 3:17).
- II. The Beginning—Freedom in the Created Order and Slavery after the Fall:
 - A. God freely made all angels and men, who possessed freedom to love and attain the happiness He planned for them to glorify Him, to bless all creation, and to complete His work in creation
 - B. Fall of the Angels—Satan and his followers enslave themselves IN PRIDE by living according to the evil of their will rather than in obedience to the goodness of God's will, and IN ENVY of Man's freedom and God's generosity towards them
 - C. Fall of Man—Adam and Eve: Slavery of Original Sin
 1. Freedom in God lost through bondage to:
 - a. The World (vanity, wealth, and power)
 - b. The Flesh (sensuality, comfort, and pleasure)
 - c. The Devil (pride, malice, and lies)
 2. Freedom according to the *Compendium of the Catechism of the Catholic Church*, number 363:

"Freedom is the power given by God to act or not to act, to do this or to do that, and so to perform deliberate actions on one's own responsibility. Freedom characterizes proper human acts. The more one does what is good, the freer one becomes. Freedom attains the proper perfection when it is directed toward God, the highest good and beatitude. Freedom implies also the possibility of choosing between good and evil. The choice of evil is an abuse of freedom and leads to the slavery of sin."

- III. History Prior to Man's Deliverance and Salvation: God's repeated call to freedom (Covenant)
 - A. Adam and Eve (Family)—Prophecy of the Woman and Her Seed (Gen. 3:15)
 - B. Noah (Household)—Covenant under the sign of the rainbow
 - C. Abraham (Tribe)—Call to be a blessing to all the families of the earth
 - D. Moses (Nation)—Deliverance and the gift of the Law
 - E. David (Kingdom)—His throne shall last forever

- F. Jesus (Universal Church) to re-introduce freedom in mercy by grace and adoption—God’s True Family and the Definitive Kingdom:
1. The freedom to DO THE FATHER’S WILL as God’s children
 2. The freedom to SACRIFICE OUR WILL THROUGH CHRIST to the Father
 3. Freedom through COOPERATION WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT by sanctifying grace (divinization)

TABLE TALK QUESTIONS

- I. Is the United States presently truly “the land of the free and the home of the brave”?
- II. What is the greatest threat to freedom in our country today?

QUESTIONS (T/F)

- ___ 1. Commandments take away from a human person’s freedom.
- ___ 2. Love must be freely chosen, so it cannot be commanded that a person love.
- ___ 3. The more a person obeys God, the freer he is.
- ___ 4. Before creating the world, God the Father chose us in Christ to be holy and blameless.
- ___ 5. God never desired that Satan be in Heaven with Him, because God created him as evil to test us.
- ___ 6. Christ’s tells us that living in truth will make us free.
- ___ 7. Christ shows us that with greater freedom comes far less suffering on earth.

MISSION

- I. Morning Prayer: “Renewal of Baptismal Promises,” “Angel of God,” “Glory Be”
- II. Mental Prayer During the Day (15-30 minutes):
 - A. The Rosary
 - B. Journal Meditation:
 1. 5-10 Minutes of Scriptural or spiritual reading
 2. 5-10 Minutes writing to either the Father, Son, or Holy Spirit
 3. 5-10 Minutes recording what you believe God is saying to you
- III. Examination of Conscience and Act of Contrition:
 - A. Are there things I possess that actually “possess” me: things that I am unable to say “no” to using in excessive and sinful ways, at the expense of my really and freely loving God and others?
 - B. Is my life more virtual than real—does my life involve interacting with images more than in engaging with other persons I actually see, of directly experiencing the created order of the Creator, and of praying to God?
 - C. Does another human person—either out of fear or excessive attachment—control me to the point that I am not free to love God first and to love others appropriately?

