

# Faith Loops

Faith Loops are PowerPoint presentations with images and information that will help us grow in the understanding of our Catholic faith. They are projected on the screens during the twenty minutes prior to each weekend mass. **To learn more about your faith while waiting for Mass to begin, come a few minutes early.**

The slides will loop, or repeat, themselves. Thus, the name: Faith Loops.



# Test Your Knowledge:

## The New Testament

The important New Testament figure who experienced a powerful conversion on the road to Damascus was ...

- a. Peter
- b. Lazarus
- c. Timothy
- d. Paul



# Test Your Knowledge:

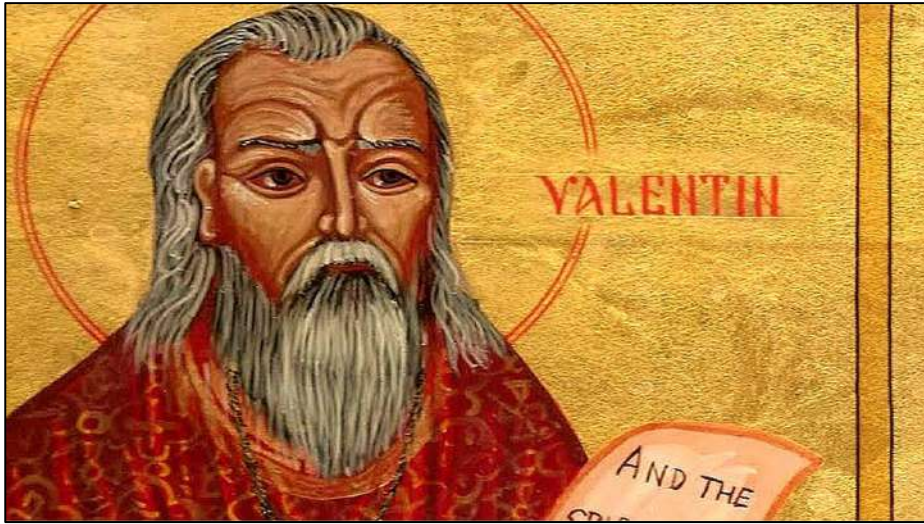
## The New Testament



The important New Testament figure who experienced a powerful conversion on the road to Damascus was ...

**d. Paul**

Paul became an apostle for Christ, making three missionary journeys and establishing several Christian communities.



## Did You Know ...?

St. Valentine was a priest and a physician who lived in Rome during the third century. At that time Christians who practiced their faith openly were arrested or put to death. Valentine took many risks because of his desire to follow Jesus' second commandment: Love one another as I have loved you. Valentine freely gave people money for food and clothing. He visited those who were imprisoned and took them gifts, often anonymously. Eventually Valentine was arrested and beheaded in the year 269.

**LOVE IS THE ONLY FORCE  
CAPABLE OF CHANGING THE HEART  
OF THE HUMAN PERSON  
AND OF ALL HUMANITY,  
BY MAKING FRUITFUL THE RELATIONS  
BETWEEN MEN AND WOMEN,  
BETWEEN RICH AND POOR,  
BETWEEN CULTURES AND CIVILIZATIONS.**

Pope Benedict XVI



# What Do You Know About Sacraments?

This Sacrament is for those seriously ill or in danger of death because of sickness or old age.



- a) Anointing of the Sick
- b) Anointing of the Body
- c) Anointing of the Hands
- d) Baptism

# What Do You Know About Sacraments?

## a) Anointing of the Sick

The “fitting time” for a Catholic to receive this Sacrament is when he or she is “in danger of death from sickness or old age” (CCC, n. 1514).

The Anointing of the Sick takes place as part of a Liturgy of the Word. The priest anoints the person’s forehead and hands with oil. He then lays his hands on their head and prays, **“Through this holy anointing may the Lord in His love and mercy help you with the grace of the Holy Spirit. May the Lord who frees you from sin save you and raise you up.”**

# What Do You Know About Sacraments?

During Confession, we receive \_\_\_\_\_ when the priest extends his hands over our heads, speaks the words of forgiveness, and makes the sign of the cross.

- a) permission to leave
- b) a religious sign
- c) a blessing
- d) absolution



# What Do You Know About Sacraments?

## d) absolution

Absolution means “freeing from guilt.” Our sins are forgiven in the name of Christ, and we are reconciled with God and the Church. The priest says:

God, the Father of mercies, through the death and resurrection of his Son, has reconciled the world to himself and sent the Holy Spirit among us for the forgiveness of sins. Through the ministry of the Church may God give you pardon and peace, and I absolve you from your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

# A Prayer for Family Day

God bless our family.

Make it be like the family of your Son. May our moments of sorrow give way to seasons of joy.

May the memory of harsh words fade before the warmth of a loving touch. May there never be pain that a kind embrace cannot lessen.

May the tears of sorrow always be replaced by the music of laughter.



# A Prayer for Family Day (cont.)

May resentment be banished from our home and forgiveness reign in our hearts.

Today and every day, let the only living thing that is stronger than the love that binds our family together be your love, O God, which makes all creation one.

Let it be, God, until that day when your gentle



guidance brings each of us to our eternal home and your loving arms. Amen.

Rev. Paul J. Keller, CMF

# Learning About Liturgy

*Why does the priest pour a drop of water into the chalice of wine during the Preparation of the Gifts?*

This is known as the **mingling of the water and the wine**. In ancient times this was necessary because the wine was very thick and heavy; adding water made it easier to drink. Today adding a drop of water to the wine is symbolic. It symbolizes the dual nature of Jesus, Who is fully divine and fully human.

Sacred Scripture tells us that, when Jesus was on the cross and was pierced in the side, both water and blood flowed from the wound (John 19:34).



# Learning About Liturgy

## Mingling of the Water & Wine

St. Thomas Aquinas explained the symbolism in another way.

We, the people, are signified by

the water; and the wine signifies the blood of Christ.

When the water is mixed with the wine in the chalice, we are made one with Christ.

When adding the drop of water to the chalice of wine, the priest prays, **“By the mystery of the water and wine, may we come to share in the divinity of Christ who humbled himself to share in our humanity.”**

# Saint of the Week: **St. Agatha**

We recognize Saint Agatha on February 5. There is not much known about this saint. Apparently, Agatha, who is depicted in this icon, was a pretty, young woman who lived in Italy during the third century. It was a time of Christian persecution.



The governor at that time, a man by the name of Quintianus, heard of her beauty and had her brought to his palace, intending to force her to renounce her faith and marry him, but she would not comply.

# Saint of the Week:

## St. Agatha



As a consecrated virgin, Agatha bravely committed herself to serving Jesus Christ and trusted in Him. In anger, Quintianus first had Agatha imprisoned in a brothel, where she endured all forms of abuse. However, she remained pure and committed to the Lord. In response, the governor had Agatha tortured but, to his dismay, she endured it cheerfully.

# Saint of the Week: **St. Agatha**

During this time, the Apostle Peter is said to have appeared and cured her. Apparently unmoved by Agatha's miraculous recovery, Quintianus ordered even more painful methods of torture, including the removal of her breasts.



In the year 251, at the age of twenty, Agatha succumbed to her injuries. Her body remains incorrupt and is housed in Catania on the island of Sicily.

# Saint of the Week: **St. Agatha**

The year after Agatha's death, her intervention was credited with stopping the eruption of Mt. Etna on the island of Sicily. As a result, St. Agatha is asked to protect people from fire and earthquakes.

She is the patroness of Sicily, rape victims, breast cancer patients, and bakers. At Mass, she is acknowledged in Eucharistic Prayer I.



# What is Catholic Social Teaching?



Faced with injustice and inequality in our world – unemployment, poverty, war, racism, etc. – what is our responsibility? The basic needs of many are not being met.

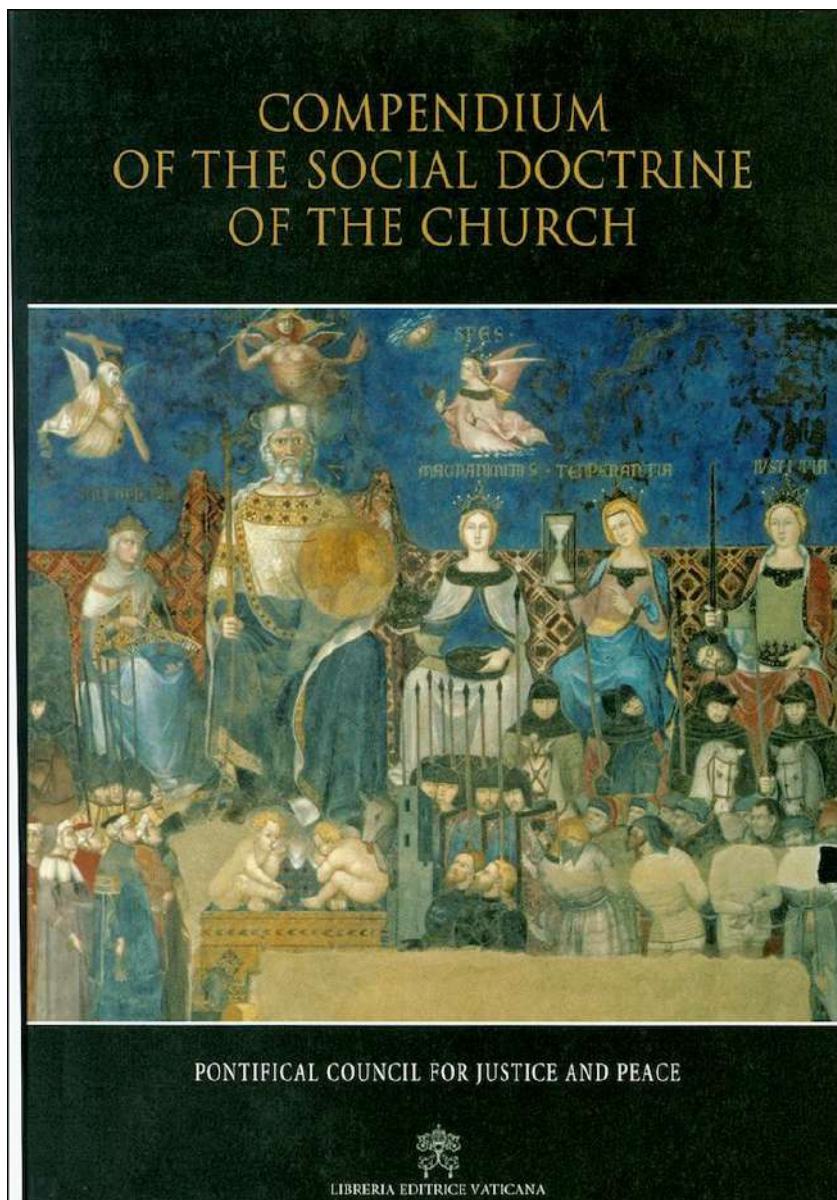
The Catholic Church has identified seven principles we

need to embrace so we can build a just and peaceful society and grow in holiness amidst these challenges.

# What is Catholic Social Teaching?

The fact that the Catholic Church has identified these seven principles – and has written a comprehensive compendium of the Social Teaching of the Catholic Church – is said to be one of the Church's best-kept secrets.

Let's not keep it a secret any longer.



# What is Catholic Social Teaching?

The seven principles of Catholic Social Teaching are:

- Life and Dignity of the Human Person
- Call to Family, Community, and Participation
- Rights and Responsibilities
- Option for the Poor and Vulnerable
- The Dignity of Work and the Rights of Workers
- Solidarity
- Care for God's Creation



# Catholic Social Teaching Principle #2: **Call to Family and Community**



God made us to be part of communities, families and countries, so all people can share and help each other.

- The human person is not only sacred, but social.
- Marriage and family are at the heart of society.
- Seek the common good and well-being of all.

# Prayer Before Mass

Dear God, help me to be open to all that you want to give me at Mass today.

My heart is open. I come in hope.

I come empty and unsure and troubled.

I come in need to be loved by you,  
united with this faith community,  
strengthened by your word,  
and nourished by the Bread of Life.

Cleanse me. Refresh me.

Strengthen me for the journey ahead.

Lead me to heaven.

Thank you, God, for this time together.

Thank you, God, for everything. Amen.



# Questions???

Do you have a question about the Catholic faith or about the celebration of the Mass?

If so, write it on a piece of paper drop it into the marked shoebox on the table at the back of the church.

We will try to answer it in a Faith Loop at a later date.

Thank you.

