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# ITE MISSA EST



A Newsletter from the Missions Office/Pontifical Mission Societies in the United States  
Catholic Diocese of Columbus, Ohio

## *Stop hiding behind the fig leaves*

### *To monthly mission donors: Thank you for your support!*

On behalf of His Excellency Frederick F. Campbell, the Bishop of Columbus, and Father Andrew Small, OMI, the National Director of the Pontifical Mission Societies in the United States, I would like to thank you for your prayers, sacrifices and financial support for the missions.

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Psychologists attribute anxiety to guilt. Anxiety and guilt are as old as Adam and Eve. One evening Adam and Eve heard the sound of God walking in the garden; and they hid themselves among the trees (Gen. 3:8). What happened to them? Until this point there was no indication they felt any fear, or trepidation. Never before had they hid from God. Indeed, they had nothing to hide. Adam and Eve were both naked, but they felt no shame (Gen. 2:25).

But then came the snake and the forbidden fruit. Adam and Eve said “yes” to the snake’s temptation and they said “no” to God. And when they did, their world collapsed, like a village swept by a tsunami. They went to hiding in bushes, feeling dread and shame and they invented cover-up schemes.

Adam and Even did not know how to process their failure. Neither do we. But we try. We

don’t hide in bushes though. But we have more sophisticated ways in dealing with our guilt. We numb it, or deny it, or minimize it, or bury it, or punish it, or avoid mentioning it, or redirect it, or offset it, or embody it. Living in this way produces anxiety.

Unresolved guilt makes us miserable, weary, angry, stressed out, and a fretful mess. Guilt sucks life out of our soul. Grace restores it. Paul clung to this grace. He relied on God’s mercy. No one had more reason to feel guilty than Paul did. He killed Christians. He was an ancient version of a terrorist. He dragged men, women and children from their houses. He jailed Christians and spilt their blood (Acts 8:3).

Paul had blood on his hands. But on the road to Damascus something happened to Paul – He encountered Jesus. As a result, he became blind. He could not see anymore. He could not see the value of his resume; he could not see the reason to boast about what he was doing; he could not see any option, except to spend the rest of his life talking less about himself and more about Jesus.

All that Paul thought worthwhile were thrown out the window. He put his trust in Christ alone (Phil. 3:7). In exchange to the things Paul previously thought as worthwhile, God gave Paul righteousness. Paul became right with God – not because he

followed the law, but because he believed in Christ (Phil. 3: 9).

Paul gave his guilt to Jesus. Period. He did not numb it, or hide it, or deny it, or offset it or punish it. He simply surrendered it to Jesus. As a result, he put all his energy not to focus on the past but to what lies ahead; to reach the end of the race; to receive the prize not because of what he did, but because of what Christ did for him (Phil. 3:13).

Like Paul, give your guilt to Jesus. Stop hiding behind the fig leaves. Cast yourself upon the grace of Christ and Christ alone. If you want to have peace do not minimize the gravity of sin, nor God’s ability to forgive. Don’t dwell in guilt. Dwell in grace.

Jesus came to take away the sins of the world (John 1:29). One day we will appear at the judgment throne of God. It could be a scary thought. But I am no longer afraid because of Christ. When the list of my sins will be produced, I will gesture to God and say: “Jesus took my sins away”. Let Jesus take yours!

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*Requiem aeternam  
dona eis Dominine,  
et lux perpetua  
luceat eis. Requies-  
cant in pace. Amen.*

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## ***You belong to the largest support group in the world***

The Church, which is the Body of Christ, functions like a human body. Every member and every part is essential. All parts work together for the good of the whole Body of Christ.

Our relationship and dependency on one another start from the beginning of life and continue even after we die. We are in the state of "assisted living". Death cannot destroy this relationship and dependency. This relationship is called the "Communion of Saints".

There are three parts in the Body of Christ - the saints in heaven, the souls in purgatory, and we, who are alive on earth.

There is a constant interchange in these three parts. This interaction is fully actualized in the celebration of the Holy Eucharist, where all three parts, as one Body of Christ, with Christ as head, offers itself to the Father.

Every part of the Body of Christ participates and is benefited by the Mass. Due to different time zones, Mass is celebrated every minute. In every Mass, streams of graces are continually flowing from the "Communion of Saints". We belong to the largest support group in the world. Let us allow the "Communion of Saints" to permeate our daily life.

## ***Love is the only effective power in the world***

In 1925, Pope Pius XI instituted the feast of Christ the King. The message is simple: Our King is Christ. And His Kingship is different from the world's notion of a king. Christ did not come with power and might. He did not come with weapons and threats. Christ came as one of us.

We think of a king as one who sits on a throne removed from the cares and problems of his people, waited upon by servants and eating off of fine china.

However, the biblical notion of a king is not someone removed from his people. A king is not a position of privilege. Rather, it is a position of responsibility and service. Jesus said that He did not come to be served, but to serve.

A king, according to the biblical notion, has three major responsibilities - to care for widows and orphans, to look after the poor, to defend the people in battle. The king does not only send the troops to battle. Rather, the king leads the troops into battle. The king is on the front line. The king risks his life for the life of his people.

Ezekiel describes the kingship of our God. God is a Shepherd who pastures His flock and leads all to greener pastures. The Lord is our Shepherd, there is nothing we shall want (Psalm 23). That's Christ's Kingship.

Before Christ died He left us a manifesto for the reign of God's kingdom - feed the hungry, give water to the thirsty, welcome strangers, clothe the naked, visit the sick and the imprisoned (Matt: 25:35 - 37).

To live how He lived, is Christ's mandate. Christ will never be a king in our lives if we do not help the poor as He did.

Jesus' message is simple: love is the only effective and lasting power in the world. Love is more powerful than all the money, the missiles, and bombs on which we rely for security.

Caring for the needs of others is not the primary value of our society. Our society honors the rich and successful and those in the positions of power and

privilege - those whom we expect to gain favor. But this is not Christ's message.

Christ is King. That is Who He is. That's what He does. This is what Christ has done for us.

He became Man so that He could take up arms against the oppressors; against sin and death.

Christ is King. He did not send a prophet to tell us this. He, Himself fought for us. And He has triumphed. He has freed us by His own Blood on the Cross.

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## ***A joke a priest can tell... LOL!***

A young, ruthless executive died and went to hell. When he got there, he saw one sign that said Capitalist Hell, and another that said Socialist Hell. In front of the Socialist Hell was an incredibly long line, while there was no one in front of the Capitalist Hell.

So the executive asked the guard, "What do they do to you in Socialist Hell?"

"They boil you in oil, whip you, and then put you on the rack," the guard replied.

"And what do they do to you in Capitalist Hell?"

"The same exact thing," the guard answered.


"Then why is everybody in line for Socialist Hell?"


"Because in Socialist Hell, they're always out of oil, whips, and racks!"

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