



Essential Evangelization

Prestigious Pride

In our first reading of this season of Lent, we hear from the 1st book of the Bible and the very familiar story of Adam and Eve. It is the temptation and fall that lost paradise for us all. It almost seems like a trite infraction - to have eaten a piece of forbidden fruit. But this sin is much more subtle than that. It is the subtle sin of pride. It is the sin that says we don't have to listen to or obey God and it is really the start and root of all sin. It is a "cancer" that is so shrewd, that those who are riddled with it, most times don't even know they have this disease. Pride skews our perception of reality. This form of "self worship" involves giving ourselves the credit for God's gifts, even our own talents, and taking the glory that belongs to God alone.

Pride says I am a good person and don't need to go the sacrament of reconciliation. Or, I am a good person and don't need a Saviour to get to heaven. And it can ruin families and relationships.

Pride caused Satan's big fall from his angel status. And it is the sin that the Devil also tries to tempt Jesus with, in his 3rd temptation in the desert. It is also one of the 7 deadly sins and the book of Proverbs tells us, "Pride comes before the fall." The proud are so blinded by their pride that they think they have no need of God or, worse, they believe that God should accept them as they are because they deserve His acceptance. This self-righteousness is in great contrast to the "poor in spirit" of the Beatitudes of Jesus. The "poor" are those who recognize the need for God's mercy and divine grace and their utter spiritual bankruptcy without Him.

Everything we accomplish in this life would not have been possible were it not for God enabling and sustaining us. In our own strength, we can do nothing. God alone deserves the glory. Do you need God's mercy? Hopefully that answer is YES!

*This is one of a series of articles on
Evangelization from the
Evangelization Committee*