

Discussion Questions

What was your first confession like? Or, if you are comfortable sharing this, tell about a particularly powerful experience you had of the sacrament of reconciliation.

Who in your life have you been reconciled with in a way that has brought fruitfulness and joy into your life? Share a little of this experience.

Series 5 Upcoming Dates

Monday Aug 26, 7pm, Brownstein Hall

Monday Sept 9, 7pm, Brownstein Hall

Saturday retreat, Sept 14, 9am-3:30pm, Brownstein Hall

Monday Sept 23, 7pm, Brownstein Hall

For Further Reading

Erasmio Leiva-Merikakis, *The Way of the Disciple*
Ignatius Press, 2003.

Pope Benedict, *Encyclical Letter Spe Salvi (On Christian Hope)*.

God Is Here Series 5, Part 1



God the Father of Mercies Invites Us
to RECONCILIATION

The Word of God

Exodus 17:3-7

In those days, in their thirst for water, the people grumbled against Moses, saying, "Why did you ever make us leave Egypt? Was it just to have us die here of thirst with our children and our livestock?" So Moses cried out to the LORD, "What shall I do with this people? A little more and they will stone me!"

The LORD answered Moses, "Go over there in front of the people, along with some of the elders of Israel, holding in your hand, as you go, the staff with which you struck the river. I will be standing there in front of you on the rock in Horeb. Strike the rock, and the water will flow from it for the people to drink." This Moses did, in the presence of the elders of Israel. The place was called Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled there and tested the LORD, saying, "Is the LORD in our midst or not?"

1 Corinthians 10:4

...they drank from the Rock which followed them, and the Rock was Christ.

Series 5 Prayer

"Almighty and most gentle God, who brought forth from the rock a fountain of living water for your thirsty people, bring forth, we pray, from the hardness of our heart, tears of sorrow, that we may lament our sins and merit forgiveness from your mercy. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God for ever and ever."
(Collect 38. For the forgiveness of sins B.)

Voices of the Church

"The gospel records that when Christ was dead, but still hung on the cross, a soldier came and pierced his side with a lance and immediately there poured out water and blood. Now the water was a symbol of baptism.... The soldier pierced the Lord's side, he breached the wall of the sacred temple, and I have found the treasure and made it my own."
(St. John Chrysostom, 4th-5th century)

"The Church is holy because she comes from God who is holy.... She is holy because Jesus Christ, the Holy One of God, is indissolubly united to her. She is holy because she is guided by the Holy Spirit who purifies, transforms, renews.... It is not we who make her holy.... You could say to me: but the Church is made up of sinners, we see them every day. And this is true: we are a Church of sinners; and we sinners are called to let ourselves be transformed, renewed, sanctified by God."
(Pope Francis, October 2, 2013)