

Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time – 07/18/21

“Brothers and sister: In Christ Jesus you who were far off have become near by the blood of Christ.”

I said last week that many people in our world today are spiritually sick because they don't know what sin is anymore.

Certainly if there were no sin then there would be no need for a redeemer.

I hope no one here will ever reach that point.

Even if people are confused about what sin is and have trouble identifying specific sins they probably still realize that they aren't perfect.

So we can start there.

All sin is serious but even slight imperfections shouldn't be ignored.

Obviously, some sin is a lot more serious than other – like the breaking of one of the Ten Commandments compared to overdoing it a bit on a Saturday night.

This is why the Church distinguishes between venial and mortal sin. Only mortal sins are deadly, but it's all serious because it damages our relationship with God.

God went to great lengths not only to save us but to sanctify us.

As we heard in the second reading, Jesus Christ reconciled our humanity with his Divinity by creating in himself one new person in place of the two, thus establishing peace, and reconciling us with God through his cross.

When the second Person of the Most Holy Trinity assumed our human nature he united it with his Divinity and this person's name is Jesus.

God the Son assumed a human nature so that he could suffer and die for us so that we could be reconciled to the Father.

In so doing, he brought a new peace into the world that is meant to last for all eternity.

However, we need to strive to live that peace with God and with one another now so that we can live it forever in heaven.

When we were young and our parents told us to do something we were just expected to do it.

They were the parents, they told us the rules and as their children we were supposed to follow them.

If we didn't then there were consequences. Good parents make good rules that are ultimately meant to make us upstanding adults so we can live good and happy lives.

Well, God is our heavenly Father and he has rules as well and these rules are made known to us primarily through his Church.

God is the perfect Father and his rules are meant to sanctify us so that we can live happily in this life and even happier with him for all eternity in the life to come.

As his children he expects us to follow the rules. If we don't then there will be consequences.

It's really up to us to decide because he always gives us sufficient grace to live according to his plan for us.

We have become near to God because of the Blood of Christ. May we never turn our backs on him to follow our own way and find ourselves far, far away.