

Questions on Pope Francis

QUESTION:

Since you were there for the election of our new Holy Father, can you tell us anything about the experience?

QUESTION:

Does our new Holy Father's vision for the Church have any unique elements that you can see thus far?

Is there any particular focus we should take in supporting him or should we just keep going as usual in praying and making sacrifices for him?

QUESTION:

This question concerns the Baptismal name of Pope Francis. Was it really Jorge Mario, as mostly reported or, in actual fact, Jorge Maria after Our Lady, as in St. Louis Marie Grignon de Montfort, St. Maximilian Maria Kolbe, or St. Anthony Mary Claret?

QUESTION:

We have seen on a video clip, in a Mass of Pope Francis, the ministers of Holy Communion refusing to distribute Holy Communion in the hand. Does His Grace think that the time-honored practice of receiving on the tongue will become universal once again?

Various Questions

QUESTION:

Could a good Catholic man with children, who has suffered the misfortune of separation from his wife because of her impropriety, find a vocation to the permanent diaconate? Would such have to wait for an annulment or not?

QUESTION:

Would you (Cardinal Burke) ever consider receiving or hosting a group of Marian Catechists on pilgrimage to Rome? How would we arrange it? Through the Shrine?

QUESTION:

Is Satan bound by linear time? Can he go backwards, or forward, in time? Does he know the future?

By extension, I'd be interested in knowing if the answer about Satan would apply to other angels: our Guardian Angels, Archangels like St. Michael, or those of all nine choirs of angels as well.

QUESTION:

It was interesting that just a few days following the recent Supreme Court decision regarding same-sex unions, the Mass readings for July 1 and July 2 were from the *Genesis* account of the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah. But I was surprised to see that the first day's reading stopped at the end of *Genesis* 18 and the July 2 reading started at *Genesis* 19:15. This completely left out the whole part that addresses homosexual sexual acts being sinful and the reason for the destruction! This is similar to a Mass reading last year in *Romans* 1 that left out the section that specifically addressed the sinfulness of homosexual sex!

How can these verses be left out? This may partly explain why the laity are not so aware of the clear Scriptural condemnation of this behavior. Who decides what verses are included?

QUESTION:

My very holy priest in Texas is not a big promoter of Divine Mercy Sunday. He said since it comes as a *plenary indulgence* it is no different than any other plenary indulgence which can be obtained through other pious acts. He also says therefore it also requires a complete detachment from sin. I know John Paul II made it a plenary indulgence, but in the *Diary* there is no mention of detachment from sin being required for the promises of Mercy Sunday. This is why it was so great a gift of mercy. It simply required the soul to throw its self on the mercy of God for complete remission of sin and punishment.

Our Lord's words to Saint Faustina were, "On that day, [Mercy Sunday] the very depths of My tender mercy are open. The soul that will go to Confession and receive Holy Communion shall obtain complete forgiveness of sins and punishment" (Diary #699).

What does the Church say here? Is it only a plenary indulgence or is it a special grace from God different from a plenary indulgence, perhaps above a plenary indulgence? I am confused and want to see Mercy Sunday more widely celebrated. Many are confused about this.

Questions on Youcat

QUESTION:

Can you speak about the difficulties in how the Faith is explained in the English translation of the Youcat? How could this happen when the then Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI endorsed it? Is anything being done to correct it? Should we use it?

Questions on Hell

QUESTION:

My question relates to a question in the Basic Course: Lesson 4, #21. We are not sure that any human being will be eternally lost. *False*

Since the Church has never defined anything regarding whether any human beings will be in Hell, can we say that no one or very few people will be in Hell? Don Fier

Answer:

Anyone who dies in the state of unrepentant mortal sin will be in Hell. The Church does not name people, but to say no people will be in Hell is to say that everyone dies in the state of grace. We cannot say that no one is in Hell.

Why does Hell exist?

Why did Our Lord warn us about it?

Why does Christ say that few enter through the narrow gate?

“Enter by the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the way is easy, that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many. For the gate is narrow and the way is hard, that leads to life, and those who find it are few” *Matthew 7:13-15*.

We do not get into speculation on the number of people in Heaven or Hell.

QUESTION:

We have encountered someone active in the Catholic Church, who has said they are in a Masonic organization. Contrary to the Church's position before Vatican II, is it permissible for a Catholic also to be in the Masons?

QUESTION:

In our study group, there was the line that you should not read someone's diary. A Mom asked about reading older children's email who live at home. How long is that allowable?

QUESTION:

Does the Church “supply” if a Catholic child is not validly baptized, no one knows it wasn't correctly done (such as the priest did not pour water on the child's head or didn't say the proper words), and the child goes through life receiving the other Sacraments?

QUESTION:

What does His Eminence think we could say to a new Catholic who says that she likes going to churches where everyone greets each other, hugs a lot, etc.?

QUESTION:

Does His Eminence know of any good model programs of post-RCIA *Mystagogia*, which he could recommend to those wanting to promote sound RCIA follow-up in their parishes, deaneries, or dioceses?

QUESTION:

I know of catechists who feel very inept when it comes to actually teaching in the classroom. Would it be possible to implement some home studies on teaching techniques and skills for Marian Catechists? Are you aware of any currently available programs?

QUESTION:

Can you share anything on the status of the Cause for Father Hardon? We heard there were troubles but we never heard any results. What will happen to all of Father's books and writings that are in St. Louis?

QUESTION:

We have come across someone promoting messages revealed to one Barnabas Nwoye, beginning in the late 1990s, when he was a teenager. A diocesan commission of 4 investigated some of the early things. The Bishop gave an imprimatur to some messages and prayers apparently for one particular date. Now there are many things attached like praying for Baptism of aborted babies after they have died, and protection from the beast only for those wearing a crucifix of design given to Barnabas. Promoters have also taken the Precious Blood Devotion and altered it. In a case like this, please guide us how to help someone promoting these things to be careful to follow the teachings of the Magisterium, and not to be carried away by claimed private revelations.

QUESTION:

Do you have any suggestions that would help the congregation maintain some silence in Church? Everyone erupts in regular conversation as soon as the priest leaves the altar at the end of Mass. Even devout parishioners have this habit. They seem to forget that the Lord is still present in the tabernacle.

QUESTION:

Can you explain the reorganization of the Vatican Bank?