

## Catholicism for Cradle Catholics:

February 4, 2009

### Confession

1. An Introductory Caveat.
2. Four quotes to start:
  - a. A random email
  - b. *Confession*, Adrienne von Speyr, pp. 92-93
  - c. John 20:19-23
  - d. Luke 10:16
3. Is any gift from Jesus more underutilized?
4. Many jumping off places we could start from...
  - a. My own experience
  - b. Our initial experiences as a child
  - c. Lack of models
  - d. We just don't like sin
  - e. Two of the biggest reasons used for not going to confession:
    - i. Who says I have to confess my sins to a priest?
      - 1.
    - ii. Pride.
      - 1.
      - 2.
      3. God loves the humble and opposes the proud
        - a. 2 Chronicles 7:14
        - b. Job 22:29
        - c. Ps 18:27
        - d. Ps 25:19
        - e. Ps 147:6
        - f. Prov 11:2
        - g. Matthew 18:4
        - h. Matthew 23:12
        - i. Luke 1:52
        - j. James 4:6, 10
      - 4.
  - f. Issue isn't really about confession
  - g. No such thing as a private sin (cf. CCC 1422)
5. What is sin? "Sin is an offense against reason, truth and right conduct; it is failure in genuine love for God and neighbor caused by a perverse attachment to certain goods. It wounds the nature of man and injures human solidarity" (CCC 1849). Image of missing the mark. "Failure to live freedom excellently" (Weigel).

- a. 2 Kinds: mortal vs. venial (1 Jn 5: 16-17; CCC 1854-1864, esp. 1857 and 1862
  - i. Venial sins are forgiven in many ways
  - ii. Confession is expressly instituted for mortal (CCC 1446)
    1. A note on general absolution: CCC 1483
6. What to do when you go?
  - a. Don't get hung up on "the form"
  - b. But, here it is: be **contrite**; state how long since last confession; **confess** sins (those that are mortal in number and kind); priest will usually offer some encouragement; pray an act of contrition (can be made up!); receive absolution; make **satisfaction** (what the penance should do: correct the vice)
7. Two things confession brings me:
  - a.
  - b.
8. How often go?
9. A question from me for you: