

# Catechumenate Session

APPRENTICES IN FAITH: A Resource for the RCIA  
Tenth Sunday in Ordinary Time • Year B • June 9, 2024



*Lord of all, strengthen us in faith,  
that we may know you,  
the one true God,  
and Jesus Christ,  
whom you have sent.  
Keep us clean of heart  
and make us grow in virtue,  
that we may be worthy to  
receive Baptism  
and enter into the holy mysteries.  
Amen.*

Adapted from Blessing of the Catechumens 97F  
Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

## Sunday Word

Genesis 3:9-15  
Psalm 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8  
2 Corinthians 4:13-5:1  
Mark 3:20-35

### *The Fall and Original Sin*

The First Reading from Genesis imparts the truth that the sinful deeds freely committed by Adam and Eve, our first parents, taint the whole of human history. Transmitted in a fallen state to all humanity, this tragedy described as Original Sin accounts for the disorder and strife experienced in creation and damages the relationship of trust and communion humanity has with God.

### *Reasons to Hope and Rejoice*

In today's Second Reading, Paul expresses reasons to hope and rejoice because his inner being—the qualities of his personhood and spiritual life not observable by the senses—is still being strengthened, despite an outward decline in health and vigor. Christ's victory over sin and Satan has not banished illness and suffering but establishes an unconquerable faith that strengthens us within.

### *Family*

Today's Gospel Reading includes two parables sandwiched between two other passages that focus on the theme of family. The bonds of a relationship with Jesus result, first and foremost, from doing the will of God.

## Church Teaching: The Fall and Original Sin

### *The Order and Goodness of Creation*

God, the Creator of all things, continues to create the universe and all that is in it. There is an order and an innate goodness in all of creation, particularly in humankind, fashioned in God's image and likeness.

## *The Fall and Original Sin*

The fall brought sin, disharmony, and evil into the world, tainting all of human history. This fallen state, described as Original Sin, accounts for the disorder and strife we experience. The relationship of trust and communion humankind has with God is damaged. Like our first parents, Adam and Eve, we are free to choose this union with God or to reject and disobey it.

## *The Self-Sacrificing Love of Jesus*

We are not abandoned by God. We have been sent a Savior to reestablish the intimacy and communion that was broken by the Fall and by Original Sin. Our hope is found in the self-sacrificing love of Jesus. In him, humanity and all of creation are made new and raised up into that intimate community with God.

## *Distinctiveness of Church Teaching*

The Church teaching on Original Sin is, in some sense, the reverse side of the Good News of Salvation for all in Christ. The figurative language of Genesis imparts the truth that the sinful deed freely committed by our first parents taints the whole of human history. Their personal sin affected human nature (see *Catechism of the Catholic Church* 404). Transmitted in a fallen state to all humanity, this tragedy described as Original Sin is not something committed by those who follow, but rather it is contracted. This fallen state accounts for the disorder and strife experienced in creation and damages the relationship of trust and community humanity has with God—even though our Creator still loves us so much that we are sent a Savior, Jesus Christ.

The very heart of everything we teach and believe is centered in the Person of Christ and the restoration we have by his suffering, Death, Resurrection, and Ascension (see CCC 426). While we live with the evil residue of a fallen nature and a fallen world, we believe that where sin abounds, grace abounds even more. Evil and sin will not have the final word. The final word is “spoken” by God in Jesus Christ, who is the Light of the World.

## **Key Terms**

### **THE FALL**

The biblical revelation about the reality of sin in human history. The biblical story begins with the Original Sin freely committed by the first human beings. In the Book of Genesis, this sin is described as “the fall” from God’s friendship and grace (see *Catechism of the Catholic Church* 388, 390).

### **ORIGINAL SIN**

The sin by which our first parents, Adam and Eve, disobeyed the command of God and chose to instead follow their own will. As a result, they lost the grace of original holiness. Sin became present in the world. Also describes the fallen state of human nature that affects every person born into the world (see *Catechism of the Catholic Church* 396-412).

## **Voices of Faith**

Our humanity is wounded; we know how to distinguish between good and evil, we know what is evil, we try to follow the path of goodness, but we often fall because of our weaknesses and choose evil. This is a consequence of Original Sin . . . something that actually happened at the origins of [humankind].

—Pope Francis

## **Further Reading**

***Catechism of the Catholic Church***: 299, 339–341, 355, 357, 404, 410, 411, 426

***United States Catholic Catechism for Adults***: pages 66–75

***Compendium: Catechism of the Catholic Church***: 75–78, 96, 258, 263

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