



We Need Healing

By : Dan Kenney, MA

Hi, my name is Dan and I'm a sinner. Guess what? You are too. Over the last five days, there's a very good chance that both you and me have broken one of the Ten Commandments. Maybe several. Maybe even today.

But we're Christians, right? Christians don't commit sins; certainly not bad ones. And real Christians wouldn't commit sexual sins, right?

Well, not really.

Here's the real deal. You and me and everybody else? We sin. We're broken. Jesus knows this. Jesus sees this. And because we are broken, He offers us something incredible. He offers

us something we simply do not deserve.

He offers us healing. Not because we deserve it; not because we've done something to earn it. Jesus offers us healing because He knows we need

it. And because Jesus loves us so much, he offers us what we need.

Because the Sacraments are one of the primary ways Jesus comes to us in our lives, let's take a look at how the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony (Marriage) brings us the Healing which Jesus always wants us to have.

Although we want to someday be married to a perfect, gorgeous, funny, talented, responsible, faithful, etc spouse; just won't hap-



Images courtesy of Microsoft Office clipart online, 2013

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DID YOU KNOW????

Fifty-four percent of women who have abortions had used a contraceptive method (usually the condom or the pill) during the month they became pregnant. Among those women, 76% of pills users and 49% of condom users report having used their method inconsistently, while 13% of pill users and 14% of condom users report correct use. [8]

Forty-six percent women who have abortions had not used a contraceptive method during the month they became pregnant. Of these women, 33% had perceived themselves to be at low risk for pregnancy, 32% had had concerns about contraceptive methods, 26% had had unexpected sex and 1% had been forced to have sex.

About half of unintended pregnancies occur among the 11% of women who are at risk for unintended pregnancy but are not using contraceptives. Most of these women have practiced contraception in the past.

From Guttmacher Institute, *In Brief: Fact Sheet – Facts on Induced Abortion in the United States*, August 2011. <http://www.guttmacher.org/pubs/fb_induced_abortion.html> accessed April 17, 2013.

We Need Healing ...continued

pen. Instead, you and I will marry someone who is decidedly imperfect and...

....broken.

Just like I'm broken. Just like you are broken.

But here's the deal. Jesus will use this Sacrament of Marriage as the primary way to fix your brokenness, to bring a man together with a woman, and to bring them into Heaven.

In the journey of this marital healing, the man will think about himself less and think about what's good for his wife more; the woman will think about herself less and think about what's good for her husband more.

The division that was caused between the first man and first woman in the Garden of Eden will slowly, over time, be healed. The Man and the Woman will once again be a unified person of Love. They will be in Heaven.

The worst thing you can do when you sin; when you sin badly, when you commit the really big ones, especially big sexual sins that can cause feelings of great shame....the worst thing you can do is assume that now Jesus doesn't love you anymore.

The worst thing you can do is to assume that you are not worthy enough to visit Jesus in Reconciliation. To assume that it's better for you to give up. The Devil is real and the Devil is our enemy. Guilt is a good thing. It's the Word of God in our Soul reminding us of what is Good and what is Bad. But The Devil uses this good guilt against you in a very bad way. The Devil wants you to feel guilty in a way that actually convinces you to stay away from Jesus. The Devil wants you to believe that you are not welcome back at Reconciliation until you are once again free from your sins. The Devil wants you to feel so much embarrassment for what you do that you give up.

The Devil lies.

Jesus wants you as close to him as possible and especially when you sin. Jesus is the truth teller. The truth is, bring your sorry sexual-sinning-self straight to Jesus when you mess up. Because when we are at our most broken, that is when Jesus is most present.

No matter what you and I think we need in our lives, Jesus knows better. And what Jesus knows, because he along with the Father and Son created us is that more than anything, we need God. Do whatever you can to keep yourself and your friends close to Jesus. And when you fall down, get back up....and follow Him. •

I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, and his incomparably great power for us who believe.
Ephesians 1: 17-20

Especially in high school and college, lots of people, myself included, make some bad decisions. Decisions they wish they could take back. Sins they wish they wouldn't have committed. Often times serious sexual sins.



Rescuing Hug

This is an amazing story of twin baby girls. One baby was not expected to live.

A hospital nurse fought to put them in the same incubator. The stronger baby wrapped her arm around her sister, and her touch allowed the struggling baby's heart to stabilize and her temperature to return to normal.

With permission: <http://onemoresoul.com/news.../the-rescuing-hug.html/comment-page-1>. This entry was posted on Monday, February 11th, 2013 at 3:34 pm and is filed under News & Commentary. You can follow any responses to this entry.

Purity: Reverence for Mystery

By: Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen

Our Redeemer
longs to
pardon
and
forget.

He often
awaits
only a gesture
or thought
of love
on our part
to grant an
extraordinary
grace...

Blessed Dina Belanger
religious, mystic (1897-1929)

The two words most often abused today are “freedom” and “sex.” Freedom is often used to mean absence of law, and sex is used to justify absence from restraint. Sometimes the two words fuse into the one, “license.” Reason, which should be used to justify God’s law, is thus invoked to justify human lawlessness and carnality with two spurious arguments. The first is that every person must be self-expressive, that purity is self-negation; therefore, it is destructive of freedom and personality. The second argument is that nature has given to every person certain impulses and instincts, and that principal among them is sex. Therefore, one ought to follow these instincts without the taboos and restrictions which religion and custom impose. Consequently, purity is looked upon as negative and cold, or as a remnant of Puritanism, monasticism, and Victorian strait-lacedness, despite the fact that the Lord of the Universe in the first of the Beatitudes said: “Blessed are the clean of heart; they shall see God.” (Matt. 5:8)

Purity is as self-expressive as
impurity, though in a different way.
There are two ways in which a

locomotive can be self-expressive: either by keeping its pressure within the limits imposed by the designer and the engineer, or by blowing up and jumping the tracks. The first self-expression is the perfection of the locomotive; the second is its destruction. In like manner, a person may be self-expressive either by obeying the laws of his nature, or by rebelling against them, which rebellion ends in slavery and frustration. Suppose the same argument of self-expression were used in war as is used to justify carnal license. In that case, a soldier at the front who, on hearing screaming shells, dropped his gun and ran to the rear line, would be greeted by a captain full of modern self-expression and told: “I commend you for throwing off Victorian convention and moral scruples. The trouble with the rest of the army is that they are not self-expressive; they overcome their fear and fight. I shall recommend a medal of honor for asserting your personality.”

There is no quarreling with those who say, “Be yourself.” The point is, which is your true self: is it to be a beast, or to be a child of God? Those who get over the wickedness of licentiousness say: “Thank God, I am myself again.” This is real self-expression.

Taken from Three to Get Married, Chapter 8

About the Author: Venerable Fulton J. Sheen

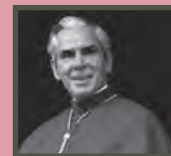
Fulton John Sheen was born to Newton and Delia on May 8, 1895 in El Paso, Illinois. The oldest of four sons, he was baptized Peter John in St. Mary’s Church, but soon became known by his mother’s maiden name, Fulton. The family moved to Peoria where the young Sheen attended school and served as an altar boy at St. Mary’s Cathedral. Turning down a significant scholarship for graduate school, he followed his desire to become a priest and entered St. Paul’s Seminary in Minnesota.

He was ordained a priest on September 20, 1919 in the Peoria Cathedral. Father Sheen went on to become Archbishop Fulton John Sheen, a universally popular evangelist, radio/TV personality, writer and missionary. He is most known for his television series, “Life is Worth Living” which had a viewing audience of over 30 million people.

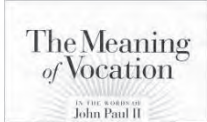
On October 3, 1979 Archbishop Sheen had an audience with Pope John Paul II at which the Pope embraced Sheen and gave a perfect summary of his life and work: “You have written and spoken well of the Lord Jesus. You have been a loyal son of the Church!” Archbishop Fulton John Sheen, a Son of Peoria, a Son of the Church, died on December 9, 1979 in his private chapel in his Manhattan apartment. In 2002, Bishop Daniel Jenky, CSC, of the Diocese of Peoria, IL officially opened the cause for Sheen’s beatification and canonization.



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slipart online 2013 (images from
Microsoft partner Fotolia)



If You Really
 Loved Me



Resources

www.popepaulvi.com

www.DrHilgers.com

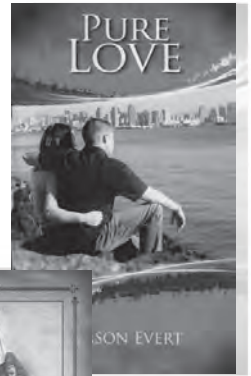
www.fertilitycare.org

<http://www.chastity.com>

<http://vocation-network.org>

www.onemoresoul.com

www.ewtn.com



SNAPSHOT: Luigi & Maria Beltrame Quattrocchi

Luigi and Maria Beltrame Quattrocchi were the first couple to be beatified *together*, an honor that was also recently bestowed on the parents of St. Therese of Lisieux (see Vol. 4, No. 3).

Before they met each other both Maria and Luigi were already committed social activists and reformers who pursued higher education and were involved in Catholic lay groups. Luigi studied law and became a lawyer and public administrator. Maria, who grew up in the great cultural treasure house of Florence, became a professor and public speaker in education and had a particular interest in music and art.

They both considered their real vocations began when they found each other. Their family home in Via Depretisin Rome became the centre of deepening faith, their social apostolate and charity work. Maria's last pregnancy with Enrichetta, was a life-threatening one. Her doctors pressured her to have an abortion to save her life. Maria and Luigi refused and dedicated their child to God in a vigil of prayer. Both mother and baby survived. The Beltrame family had a lively and happy family life; people often joined them on camping and hiking holidays near their holiday house in the hills.

During the Second World War, the Beltrame home became an accommodation centre for refugees and the dislocated: a drop-in centre for anyone in need. People were given support, food and a place to stay and were invited to join the family's regular Rosary, Holy Hours and other prayers.

In addition, both Luigi and Maria assisted in establishing programs of Catholic adult education, catechesis, marriage prepa-



Louis and Zélie Martin,
 parents of St. Therese of Lisieux

ration, and retreats. Together, they founded a scout group for disadvantaged boys. The couple had an intense prayer life and both in different ways contributed to the reconstruction of Italy after the devastation of the Second World War. Luigi became the deputy attorney general for Italy, Maria assisted in the foundation of the Sacred Heart Catholic University in Rome. Luigi died in the well-loved family home in Rome in 1951, Maria died at 81 being held by the daughter she had refused to abort.

Blessed Luigi Beltrame Quattrocchi

Born: Catania, Italy - 12th January, 1880

Died: 1951.

Blessed Maria Corsini

Born: Florence, Italy-24th June, 1884

Died: 1965

Married: 25th November 1905.

Children: Fillippo (Don Tarcisio), Stefania (Sr. Cecelia), Cesare (Fr Paolino), Enrichetta

Shared Memorial: Rome, November 25th (their wedding day)

Patrons: family, mission of the laity, difficult pregnancies

Representation: Often as an elderly married couple holding arms & facing each other.

From a blog post by Robert Colquhoun

<http://loveundefiled.blogspot.com> (29th October 2009)

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