



## HIGHLIGHTS FOR TALK 2

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### HOW DOES THE FIRST SIN AFFECT ME TODAY?

- ❖ God created man and woman in His own “image and likeness” as free beings made to know, love, and serve Him.
- ❖ Adam and Eve were tempted by the devil to think that God was holding out on them -- that by eating the fruit from the forbidden tree they would become like God. When they disobeyed God by eating the fruit, they committed the first sin and brought evil into the world.
- ❖ The first sin was a serious and treacherous crime committed “in cold blood”, since the first couple had no disordered passions or impulsiveness or forgetfulness in their perfect human natures to blame for it. With full knowledge and understanding, they abused their freedom by flatly rejecting God and denying Him the gratitude and love He deserved from them.
- ❖ All evils, personal and social, are rooted in the first sin. Sin is an offence against God committed by a human being. It is the worst kind of misfortune, since it tears us away from God.
- ❖ The first sin caused the gates of heaven to close because it destroyed man’s saving relationship with God.
- ❖ Yet God loved us so much that He sent His only Son to redeem us: Jesus Christ, who is both perfect God and perfect Man.
- ❖ How God became a man by perfectly uniting His divine nature with a human nature is beyond our full understanding. The Church calls this mystery “The Incarnation”.
- ❖ Christ came into the world to offer His life on the cross as payment for our sins, thereby restoring the saving relationship between God and man.
- ❖ Mary was conceived without the stain of Adam’s sin -- i.e. totally free from original sin. Therefore, she is called “The Immaculate Conception”. Second only to Jesus, Mary is the consummate model of Christian obedience and faith.
- ❖ The first thirty years of Christ’s life are called His “hidden years” because He spent them as an ordinary citizen in Nazareth; but during all that time, He was redeeming the world by doing the will of His Father through His daily work.
- ❖ After three years of “public life” announcing the coming of God’s Kingdom, Christ was betrayed into the hands of those who hated Him. He was tortured and crucified as an innocent victim, and died for us.
- ❖ On the third day, Christ rose from the dead. The Resurrection proves Christ’s divinity and demonstrates that love conquers any evil, even the evils of sin and death.
- ❖ For forty days, the Resurrected Lord remained on earth, appearing to His friends and followers. He gave them the mission of teaching the Catholic faith to all people and of inviting them into His Church. He then ascended into Heaven, but He did not leave us. He



## Moms Transmit the Faith

sent us the Holy Spirit, and He remains with us through the sacraments -- especially in the Holy Eucharist.

❖ Christ wants us to fight our inclination toward evil by:

- 1) frequently receiving the sacraments, especially Penance and the Eucharist.
- 2) accepting trials and hardships as opportunities to share in Christ's work of redeeming the world.
- 3) offering our prayers, works, joys, and sufferings through Christ to the Father.