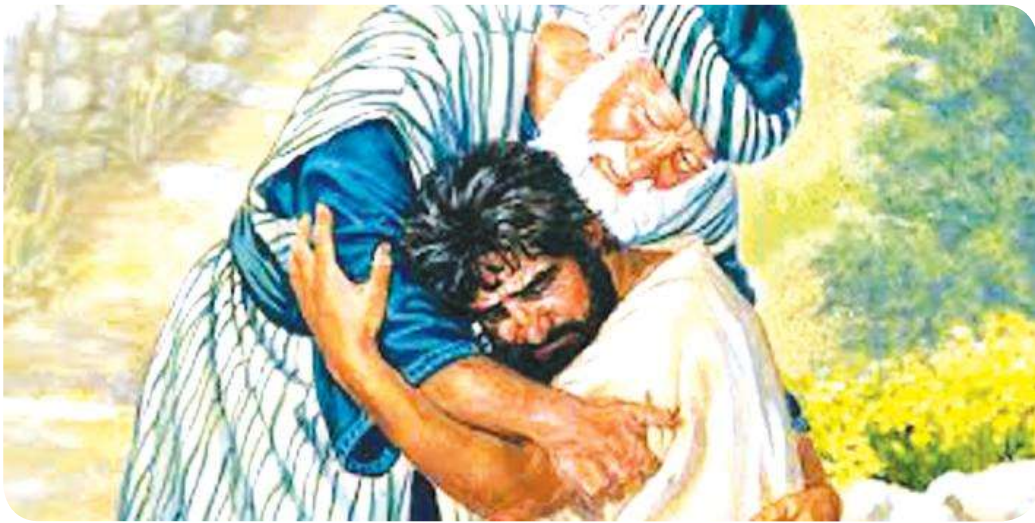


Parable of the Lost Son



12.1 Picture - Lost Son, hugged by the Father

Read: Luke 15:11-32

In spite of father's love, the younger son demanded and got his share of the property from the father and left the father in search of happiness and well being, but in a short time, all what he had was over. He lost his friends, happiness and well being, that he had looked for. Even having nothing to eat, he experienced the negative effects of sin. Then he came to his senses and recalled the love and mercy of the father, and the happiness and well being of the servants with the father. He had a conversion.

The son, who had left the father as a prince, returned home as a beggar. The father was waiting for the son's return with conversion. Once the son returned, the father welcomed him in mercy. Having forgiven, the best robe was clothed; ring was put; and sandals were worn. Once again he was given the status of a prince.

This parable illustrates the love and mercy of God. It also invites us to be aware of sinful states; have a conversion; come back to God; get forgiveness and experience the divine love, mercy and wellbeing.

The Parable of the Lost Coin

What woman having ten silver coins, if she loses one of them, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? When she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.' Just so, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.

(Luke 15:8-10)

This parable shows that a woman, who has ten silver coins and loses even one of them, does not take it for granted, but looks for the lost one and when it is found, she is very happy. In the same way, God invites us to give up sinful ways and to experience divine love. It also shows how God is happy about the one, who is contrite for his sins and who is converted from sin. Therefore, we too must get converted and convert others from sin.

We have to believe that there is a loving Father who does not allow us to suffer by falling into sin and keeping away from divine love, but instead He comes in search of us.

The Woman Caught in Adultery



12.2 Picture - Lord Jesus forgave the woman caught in adultery

Read: John 8:1-11

According to the Law of Moses, one who commits adultery was to be stoned to death. Lord Jesus forgave even such a woman. Moreover, He said to her: “from now on do not sin again.”

We have to understand the sins that we have committed up to now, to be contrite for them, make a firm resolution not to do them once again, make a good confession and get absolution from Lord Jesus.

St. Augustine



12.3 Picture - St. Augustine

St. Augustine was born in Thagaste (now Algeria) in North Africa on the 13th of November 354 A.D. His father was Patricius. He was not a Christian. His mother was Monica, a Catholic. She became a saint and she is called, St. Monica. St. Augustine was a good orator and a lecturer. He went astray due to his bad habits.

His mother prayed to God with a firm faith for the conversion of her son. She asked the assistance of St. Ambrose in that endeavour. After a long time, he got converted because of;

- ★ His mother's prayers
- ★ St. Ambrose's guidance

He was baptised at the age of 33 on an Easter Sunday amidst his mother's happiness and praising of God. At that moment, his mother said: “Dear son, the only wish that I had all through my life was that you become a Christian. God has given more than what I wished. Let God be praised!”

Evil always leads us to wrong path. There are so many ways that lead us to temptations. Even the modern technology tempts us. We have to overcome temptations and free others also from temptations. For that, we must pray to the Holy Spirit. Let us follow the example, set by St. Monica.

Activity



1. Write a hymn, used at the “Penitential Rite” of the Holy Mass, and memorize it.
2. Name two parables in the Holy Bible which affirm that sinner is forgiven.
3. Write a poem on “let us rebuild the relationship with God once again.”



For Life

- ★ Memorize: “Jesus said, ‘Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing.’ ”
(Luke 23:34)