



# THE PARISH OF ST. VINCENT FERRER AND ST. CATHERINE OF SIENA

CHURCH OF ST. VINCENT FERRER: 869 Lexington Ave, New York, NY 10065

CHURCH OF ST. CATHERINE OF SIENA: 411 East 68<sup>th</sup> Street, New York, NY 10065

www.svsc.info | (212) 744-2080 | parish@svsc.info

## February 26, 2017 — 8<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

### SECOND COLLECTION

This weekend, February 26, there will be a second collection to help the Parish's Deficit Reduction. Thank you for your support.

### FOOD SUNDAY

Money for the NY Common Pantry will be collected this weekend at all Masses of our Parish. The Pantry can buy food in bulk at a lower cost. So please do donate money in place of the food. Whatever amount you choose to give will be put to good use feeding the hungry.

### ASH WEDNESDAY

Wednesday, March 1st is Ash Wednesday. Ashes will be imposed at all of the Parish's Masses. Masses at St. Vincent Ferrer will be at 8 AM (Solemn), 10 AM (Sung), 12:10 PM (Low), and 6 PM (Solemn). Masses at St. Catherine of Siena will be at 7 AM (Low), 1 PM (Sung), and 5:15 PM (Low). Ashes will also be imposed before the 7:30 PM Holy Hour at St. Vincent Ferrer.

### PARISH STUDY: PRAY WITH UNDERSTANDING

Our Spring Parish Study program continues this Tuesday at 6:45 PM in the Parish Hall at St. Vincent Ferrer. Fr. Innocent Smith, O.P. will speak on the Propers of the Mass.

### NEW YORK PURGATORIAL SOCIETY

On Monday, February 27 at 7 PM, the monthly New York Purgatorial Society Mass will be offered at the Rosary Altar at St. Vincent Ferrer in the Dominican Rite.

### STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Beginning this Friday, March 3, the Stations of the Cross will be held every Friday of Lent after the evening Masses at St. Vincent Ferrer (6 PM) and St. Catherine of Siena (5:15 PM).

### PARISH COFFEE

Join us for coffee (tea), cake, and conversation next weekend, March 5 after the 12:00 Noon Mass in the St. Vincent Ferrer Priory Parlors.

### VISITATION CIRCLE

Visitation Circle invites single, widowed, and divorced women to their 6th Annual Retreat on Saturday, March 4, given by Fr. Walter Wagner. Registration and coffee begin at 8:45 AM in the Priory Parlors, followed by conferences by Father and periods of reflection. Mass will follow at 12 NOON. There is no fee for the retreat.

Following Mass will be a luncheon, Mrs. Mary Buckley Teatum, President of the Ladies of Charity of New York, will present on "Ladies of Charity – Making A Difference." The luncheon is \$20 per person, \$10 of each donation will go to the Ladies of Charity ministries. If you wish to attend the luncheon, you can send your name and contact information to parish@svsc.info and you can leave your payment with the Parish Office Attendees may pay at the door on the day of the event or prior to the event at the priory. The deadline for registration is Wednesday, March 1st.

## MASS AND CONFESSIONS

### ST. VINCENT FERRER

SATURDAY VIGIL: 6:00 PM

SUNDAY: 8:00 AM, 12:00 PM,

6:00 PM

WEEKDAYS: 8:00 AM, 12:10 PM,

6:00 PM

SATURDAY: 8:00 AM

### Confessions

SATURDAY: 5:00–5:50 PM

WEEKDAYS: 5:20–5:50 PM

### Parish Vespers

SUNDAY: 5:30 PM

### ST. CATHERINE OF SIENA

SATURDAY VIGIL: 4:00 PM

SUNDAY: 10:00 AM, 5:00 PM

WEEKDAYS: 7:00 AM, 5:15 PM

SATURDAY: 9:00 AM

### Confessions

SATURDAY: 3:00–3:50 PM

WEEKDAYS: 4:40–5:05 PM

## LITURGY OF THE HOURS &

### OTHER PRAYER

### ST. VINCENT FERRER

MONDAY–FRIDAY:

7:40 AM (MORNING PRAYER)

5:30 PM (OFFICE OF READINGS

AND EVENING PRAYER)

WEDNESDAY:

6:30 PM (ROSARY)

7:30 PM (HOLY HOUR)

### ST. CATHERINE OF SIENA

MONDAY–FRIDAY:

5:00 PM (ROSARY)

OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP

PRAYER GROUP

WEDNESDAY: 6:30 PM

QUEEN OF PEACE PRAYER GROUP

SATURDAY: 9:30 AM

## PARISH OFFICE

St. Vincent Ferrer  
869 Lexington Ave, NY, NY 10065  
(212) 744-2080 | parish@svsc.info  
Office Hours: Monday–Friday:  
9 am–1 pm, 2–5 pm

St. Catherine of Siena  
411 East 68<sup>th</sup> Street, NY, NY 10065  
Office Hours:  
Monday – Friday: 10 am–3 pm

## PARISH STAFF

Very Rev. Walter Wagner, OP  
Pastor

Rev. Joseph Allen, OP  
Vicar

Rev. Innocent Smith, OP  
Vicar for Formation

Bro. Damian McCarthy, OP  
Sacristan

Deacon John M. Powers

Lee Ann Rubino  
Business Manager

James D. Wetzel  
Director of Music and Organist

Lisa Harrelson  
Director of Catechesis and  
Youth Ministry

Rachel Miller  
Administrative Assistant

Sr. Padraic Mary McGuinness, OP  
Receptionist

Tony Hicks  
Church Custodian

Tracey Hicks  
Church Custodian

## ST. VINCENT FERRER

### HIGH SCHOOL

(212) 535-4680  
Sr. Gail Morgan, OP  
Principal

## DOMINICAN SHRINE OF

### ST. JUDE

(212) 249-6067  
www.dominicanshrineofsaintjude.org

## PARISH INFORMATION

### REGISTRATION

Please register as a member of our Parish if this is where you regularly attend Mass. Registration forms are available in the Parish Office, or online at [www.svsc.info/register](http://www.svsc.info/register).

### SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

To arrange for the baptism of a child, call the Parish Office. Baptisms are usually celebrated on Saturdays, but other arrangements may be made depending upon the circumstances. Please call the Parish Office to schedule a meeting with a priest.

### SACRAMENTS OF FIRST HOLY COMMUNION AND FIRST RECONCILIATION

Youth participate in the sacramental preparation program coordinated by Lisa Harrelson ([lharrelson@svsc.info](mailto:lharrelson@svsc.info)).

### SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

Youth participate in the sacramental preparation program coordinated by Lisa Harrelson ([lharrelson@svsc.info](mailto:lharrelson@svsc.info)). Adults who have not been confirmed should inquire with the Parish Office about preparing for confirmation.

### SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE

To begin making arrangements for a wedding at St. Vincent Ferrer or St. Catherine of Siena, contact the Parish Office to arrange a meeting with a priest. More information is available at [www.svsc.info/weddings](http://www.svsc.info/weddings).

### SACRAMENT OF ANOINTING OF THE SICK

Please contact the Parish Office if you or a loved one would like to receive the Anointing of the Sick at the Parish, at a nearby hospital, or at home (for those who are homebound).

### RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS (RCIA)

RCIA is a class for adults interested in becoming Catholic. To learn more, contact Fr. Innocent Smith, OP, at the Parish Office.

### RELIGIOUS EDUCATION FOR CHILDREN

For information and/or registration for classes held at St. Vincent Ferrer or St. Catherine of Siena, contact Lisa Harrelson ([lharrelson@svsc.info](mailto:lharrelson@svsc.info)).

### RELIGIOUS EDUCATION FOR ADULTS

Parish Study is a program for adults interested in learning more about the Catholic faith. It meets on Tuesday evenings in the Fall and Spring. To learn more, contact the Parish Office or check our website at [www.svsc.info](http://www.svsc.info).

### YOUNG ADULTS

St. Vincent Ferrer often hosts events of the New York Frassati Fellowship. For more information, visit [www.frassati.nyc](http://www.frassati.nyc).

**MASS INTENTIONS**  
**ST. VINCENT FERRER**

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 26  
6:00 pm (Vigil) For the People of  
the Parish  
8:00 am For the Deceased members  
of the Bowler, Yerkes, & Williams  
Families (D)  
12 pm Mary Cunningham Luby (D)  
6:00 pm Pauline Tourre  
Shipman (D)

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 27  
8:00 am Gilda Caiazzo (D)  
12:10 pm Rev. Barnabas Gorski,  
OFM (D)  
6:00 pm Nell Logau-Evans  
Thomas (D)

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 28  
8:00 am For the Deceased members  
of the Parish & the Order (D)  
12:10 pm Anna & William  
Schwede, Sr. (D)  
6:00 pm Herhan Baez (D)

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 1  
8:00 am For the Deceased members  
of the Kirby Family (D)  
12:10 pm Mary & Patrick Naughton  
6:00 pm Peter Gimbel (D)

THURSDAY, MARCH 2  
8:00 am Gilda V. Hilado (D)  
12:10 pm Eileen Smyth  
6:00 pm Charles & Marjorie  
Barrett (D)

FRIDAY, MARCH 3  
8:00 am Dr. Paul Russo  
12:10 pm Pat Keegan (D)  
6:00 pm Kate Carty (D)

SATURDAY, MARCH 4  
8:00 am Vincent Camuto (D)

**MASS INTENTIONS**  
**ST. CATHERINE OF SIENA**

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 26  
4:00 pm (Vigil) David Johnson (D)  
10:00 am For the patrons of the  
Shrine of Saint Jude  
5:00 pm Edward Peter Grino

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 27  
7:00 am For the Province of  
St. Joseph  
5:15 pm Alba Murphy (D)

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 28  
7:00 am Bill Hannigan (D)  
5:15 pm Anthony Debono (D)

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 1  
7:00 am Salvatore Portelli (D)  
1:00 pm Francisco Marcelino &  
Elvira Cuevas (D)  
5:15 pm Michael Kenny (D)

THURSDAY, MARCH 2  
7:00 am Mary Delghan (D)  
5:15 pm Laura Barinstein (D)

FRIDAY, MARCH 3  
7:00 am St. Catherine of Siena  
Purgatorial Society (D)  
5:15 pm Astrika & Jacob Adam

SATURDAY, MARCH 4  
9:00 am Arnold Gamusaran (D)

**PARISH PRAYER**  
**INTENTIONS**

*Contact the Parish Office to add a  
name to this list*

Len Bencivenga, Joseph Cannistraci,  
Joseph Robert Cusimano, Nancy  
Falconer, Maria Gruziano, Rev.  
Chris Johnson, O.P., Helen Johnson,  
Carolyn Kelly, John Kelly, Anthony  
Mendola, Maria Guillen de Ribone,  
Anchalee Sae-Lim, Wasinee  
Wannapahul, & Aquila Zacharilla.

Please pray for the repose of the souls  
of Fr. Lararus Augustine, Matthew  
Martinez, Margaret Mintz, Rita  
Mountain, Mildred Moscarello,  
Charlene Payne, Sophia Stainton, &  
Lucille Witty, and the souls of all our  
recently deceased.

We continue to pray for the sick, the  
dying, and their families in Memorial  
Sloan Kettering Cancer Center,  
NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital, the  
Hospital for Special Surgery, and  
Rockefeller University Hospital.

**CANDLE INTENTIONS**

The seven-day candles are available for  
an offering of \$15 each.

*St. Vincent - Sanctuary Lamps*  
Ramon & Fernando Gonzalez (l);  
Jack Ryan Keegan (l); Anthony  
Mortelliti; Charlene Payne (d);  
Edward C. Perry (d); Florence A.  
Schwede (d); For the People of the  
Parish

*St. Vincent - Sanctuary Madonna*  
Charlene Payne (d)

*St. Vincent - Pieta Lamp*  
Well-being of Christians in the  
Middle East

*St. Catherine - Mary Candle*  
Priscilla Ventigan

*Mass Intentions may be reserved in the Parish Office Monday through Friday, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm, and in the Church Office of St. Catherine of Siena Monday through Friday, 10:00 am to 3:00 pm.*

## INHABITING MORE DEEPLY

Last Friday I returned to New York from San Francisco on the “Redeye.” So it was about 7 AM when the new Q line left me at 72nd Street and I emerged via escalators onto Second Avenue at 69th Street, one block from my home at St. Catherine’s. The number of people who ascended to the surface with me left me astounded. So soon in its life this line had become integral to the lives of many. This change in pattern visibly brought more intense life to this corner of the city, so that one could say that now it is inhabited more deeply. What a thought that a place as developed and densely occupied as New York City could harbor the potential to be even better used. Making a fallow place into a fruitful place brings its own particular thrill. The subway now gives a whole neighborhood the opportunity to understand and realize its potential.

If any institution in our city has fulfilled its potential it is the Waldorf-Astoria. I still remember fondly the December day in 1976 when my Grandfather took me to breakfast at Peacock Alley. Ever since then passing through the Waldorf lobby has been a ritual with me. Through the years, especially since I moved here, I have come to know the building more intimately; its art deco interiors, the amazing design of its ballroom complex, and its variety of great gathering places. Imagine the number of people who claim a Waldorf memory; from the Starlight Roof, or the Empire Room, or the Bull and the Bear. I have observed that the Waldorf and the Plaza have served as crossroads in the city. They have been fancy places everybody could traipse through.

I write this because the Waldorf Astoria closes this week for a three to four-year renovation. What new potential will a discerning eye detect in such a storied place.

If I walk a little bit further north and stand at the corner of 57th Street I see new residential and commercial construction everywhere. Further, I can also see kinds of retail space waiting to be claimed. I wonder what kind of economy will support all of this, and what kind of technologies reach their potential in these new homes, offices, and stores. Just how many times has New York rebuilt itself?

We head now into the Lenten part of the year’s circle, and these days play us a “Reveille” and call us to wake up to the to nature’s Spring just over the horizon, and to the eternal Spring ushered in by the Resurrection. An exciting way to keep the discipline of these days would be to look for our own fallow places. Finding “room for growth” either names a problem or uncovers potential. For example, fasting makes room for deeper hungers, prayer sets those before God, and somehow, generosity of life results.

In the end, our goal is to inhabit ourselves more and more completely so that all of our surprising resources come into play.

This year we are discerning room for growth in Ash Wednesday itself. For the first time we will, on this day, have a full Solemn Mass at 6 PM at St. Vincent Ferrer. If you can delay coming for your ashes, you will be rewarded by receiving them to the extraordinary accompaniment of Allegri’s *Misere*, his haunting setting of the 50th Psalm. The rest of that tumultuous day will be as usual.

May the days of Lent bring the serenity that comes from befriending the truth about ourselves.

Mardi Gras Peace!



Fr. Walter

### CHORAL CONCERT

The Syracuse University Singers will give a free choral concert at St. Vincent Ferrer on Saturday, March 4th at 8:00 PM as part of their annual tour. All parishioners are invited.

### PURGATORIAL CANDLES

St. Catherine's remembers our deceased with a weekly Mass celebrated at 7 AM on Friday for those who have been enrolled in the Purgatorial Society. In conjunction with these remembrances, we have restored 6 Requiem candlesticks, which allows the burning of memorial candles for our beloved dead. These candles are now available for \$10 each, and can be arranged through the parish office.

### LAY FRATERNITY OF ST. DOMINIC

Our Lady of the Assumption Chapter of the LFSM meets on the third Thursday of each month for approximately two hours, directly after attending the 6 PM parish Mass in St. Vincent Ferrer Church (meeting in the Parish Center, at street level, to the left of the Priory stairs). Dominican Laity share deeply the spiritual charisms of the Dominican Order while remaining in the lay state. More information is available at <http://www.laydominicans.com>.

### MASS FOR COUPLES MARRIED 50 YEARS DURING 2017

Couples celebrating their 50th Wedding Anniversary anytime during 2017 are invited to attend the Annual Golden Wedding Jubilee Mass with Cardinal Dolan at the Cathedral of St. Patrick, Sunday, June 11th at 2 PM. Pre-registration is required. Please contact your parish for registration. The closing date to register for the Mass is Friday, May 12, 2017. This event is sponsored by the Family Life Respect Life Office of the Archdiocese of New York.

### 63<sup>RD</sup> U.S. NATIONAL ROSARY PILGRIMAGE LOURDES, FRANCE

Father Joseph Allen, O.P. invites you to join him on the 63<sup>rd</sup> U.S. National Pilgrimage to Lourdes: June 22 - July 1, 2017. Accompanied by a medical staff, clergy, and volunteers to assist the needs of the pilgrims. For details contact Fr. Joseph Allen, O.P., email: [Joseph.Allen@opeast.org](mailto:Joseph.Allen@opeast.org) or the Lourdes Pilgrimage Office: Toll Free: 1-877-276-7279, email: [lourdespilgrimageoffice@comcast.net](mailto:lourdespilgrimageoffice@comcast.net), website: [www.lourdes-pilgrimage.com](http://www.lourdes-pilgrimage.com). The deadline for reservations is March 15, 2017.

### SIGN UP NOW!

### ONLINE FAITH FORMATION COURSES

The Archdiocese of New York and Fordham University have partnered to offer new online courses for those in-parish ministry and those who simply wish to learn more about their faith. Courses which are: **Relevant** to contemporary people, **Convenient** for busy schedules, and **Faithful** to the Church.

For a limited time, these courses are being offered for FREE! To learn more and sign up visit [www.nycatholicfaith.org/learn](http://www.nycatholicfaith.org/learn).

### ATTENTION MARRIED COUPLES

#### CATHOLIC COUPLE CHECKUP GIVEAWAY

The Archdiocese of New York's Family Life Respect Life Office is excited to announce that as part of World Marriage Week, we are offering 100 free codes for married couples to take the Catholic Couple Checkup!

#### What is the Catholic Couple Checkup?

The Catholic Couple Checkup is an online tool designed to identify the unique relationship strengths and growth areas of dating, engaged, or married couples. Research has shown this process improves relationships by stimulating honest dialogue, increasing understanding, and empowering couples. It's an enjoyable, easy, private way to take the temperature of your relationship and start some meaningful conversations. Best of all...it's on us!

Visit [nyfamilylife.org](http://nyfamilylife.org) during the month of February to get your free code. Don't miss out - the free codes are first come, first serve! For questions or further information, contact Izabella Nagle at [izabella.nagle@archny.org](mailto:izabella.nagle@archny.org).

#### THE EMMAUS MINISTRY FOR GRIEVING PARENTS

To meet the spiritual needs of Catholic parents whose children of any age have died by any cause - no matter how long ago - the Family Life Respect Life Office offers the Emmaus Ministry for Grieving Parents. A unique, faith-based program providing spiritual retreats for grieving parents offered by grieving parents, the Emmaus Ministry offers a safe place where you can find peace, comfort, and hope. Join us at one of the following Emmaus Ministry Catholic retreats now being offered in the Archdiocese of New York.

#### Church of the Magdalene

525 Bedford Road, Pocantico Hills,  
Tarrytown, NY 10591

Saturday, April 1, 2017

**Cost: \$25 per person, \$40 per couple**

Scholarships are available

To register online go to: [www.emfgp.org/archny](http://www.emfgp.org/archny)  
Or, contact Sue DiSisto, Coordinator, Parenting and Family Life Education at [susan.disisto@archny.org](mailto:susan.disisto@archny.org) or (646) 794-3191.

#### "WISDOM OF ST. THOMAS AQUINAS" LECTURE

On Saturday, March 4th, Fr. James Brent, O.P. will teach the final installment of this year's 'Wisdom of St. Thomas Aquinas' at the NYU Catholic Center. The topic is "The Presence of God: The Wisdom of St. Thomas Aquinas & the Witness of St. Elizabeth of the Trinity." Mass will be at 12 PM, followed by refreshments at 12:30 PM. The first lecture at 1 PM and the second at 2:30 PM. Register online at [www.thomisticinstitute.org](http://www.thomisticinstitute.org).

The Parish of St. Vincent Ferrer and St. Catherine of Siena  
Parish Study — Spring 2017

## Pray with Understanding: Participating in the Mysteries of the Mass



*“So what shall I do? I will pray with my spirit, but I will also pray with my understanding;  
I will sing with my spirit, but I will also sing with my understanding.” (1 Cor 14:15).*

Tuesday evenings from 6:45-7:45 PM  
St. Vincent Ferrer Parish Hall

2/28/17	The Propers of the Mass - Part II	Fr. Innocent Smith, OP
3/7/17	Collects	Fr. Innocent Smith, OP
3/14/17	Readings	Fr. Innocent Smith, OP
3/21/17	Prayers over the Gifts and Prefaces	Fr. Innocent Smith, OP and James Wetzel
3/28/17	Eucharistic Prayers and Postcommunion Prayers	Fr. Innocent Smith, OP
4/4/17	Hymns and Motets	James Wetzel



DFHCM of NY

DOMINICAN FRIARS HEALTH CARE  
MINISTRY OF NEW YORK

## Reflections on Ethics, Faith & Health Care

EDITOR: FR. JONAH POLLOCK, O.P., S.T.L.

### GOSPEL ETHICS: *both* RADICAL DEMANDS *and* RADICAL MERCY

By Fr. Jonah Pollock, O.P., S.T.L., Associate Director, Dominican Friars Health Care Ministry of New York

G. K. Chesterton, the early 20<sup>th</sup> century Christian apologist, wrote that, while “paganism declared that virtue was in a balance; Christianity declared it was in a conflict: the conflict of two passions apparently opposite. Of course they were not really inconsistent; but they were such that it was hard to hold them simultaneously.”<sup>1</sup> “This duplex passion,” Chesterton concludes, “was the Christian key to ethics.” He goes on to cite examples of what he means. The virtue of courage requires both love for life and willingness to die. Christians honor heroes who save life as well as martyrs who give it away. The virtue of modesty requires both the humble acknowledgement of our lowliness and a bold assertion of our dignity. For Christians, humility should never lead to despair and recognizing our God-given dignity should never lead to pride. The virtue of chastity requires of some a lifetime of married love and child rearing and of others a lifetime of celibacy. The communion of Christian saints includes St. Therese’s parents, who had many children, and St. Therese, who had none. As Chesterton puts it, the Church “has at once been fiercely for having children and fiercely for not having children. It has kept them side by side like two strong colors, red and white, like the red and white upon the shield of St. George. It has always had a healthy hatred of pink.”

Chesterton’s insight: that Christianity holds seemingly opposite convictions simultaneously, is best exemplified in the Church’s teaching about the natures of Jesus Christ. We hold that Jesus is both fully God and fully man. While various heresies in the early Church claimed that Jesus was either God or man, or that Jesus was something in between God and man, or some mixture of God and man, the Church maintained its *both/and* teaching: Jesus is *both* fully God *and* fully man. Using Chesterton’s analogy, we might say that the Church kept Jesus’ full divinity and full humanity “side by side like two strong colors, red and white” and rejected every heretical shade of pink.

The Church’s *both/and* moral teaching, like the Church’s *both/and* teaching on the natures of Christ, is rooted in the gospels. Just as the gospels clearly attest *both* to Jesus’ divinity *and* to Jesus’ humanity, so also they present *both* the most challenging of moral demands *and* the most extravagant examples of mercy.

We find the demanding moral teaching most especially in the Sermon on the Mount. There Jesus condemns not only murder and adultery, but also anger and lustful thoughts. He prohibits divorce, calls remarriage adultery, and forbids swearing oaths, fighting back, and showing off. All of this is summarized in the most demanding precept conceivable: “Be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect” (Matt 5:48).

Yet even as Jesus tells his disciples to what lengths they must go to avoid sin, he simultaneously shows them to what lengths they must go in forgiving sin. Jesus tells Peter to forgive not “seven times, but seventy times seven” (Matt 18:22). He regularly consorts with tax collectors and other public sinners in his mission to seek and save the lost. He forgives sins even as he heals disease and casts out demons. He tells parables that give examples of extravagant mercy, most notably the parables of the lost sheep and the prodigal son.

Perhaps the combination of Jesus’ radical moral demands and radical mercy is best illustrated in his encounter with the woman caught in adultery. Jesus did not mince words when it came to condemning adultery. His teaching on the matter was so demanding that his disciples were led to remark that it might be better not to marry at all (see Matt 19:8-12). But when Jesus encountered the woman caught in adultery, he did not condemn her. After inducing her accusers to depart, he asks, “Has no one condemned you?” She replies, “No one, Lord.” Jesus then tells her, “Neither do I condemn you.” Then he immediately adds, “Go, and do not sin again” (John 8:2-11).

Jesus’ condemnation of sin combined with his non-condemnation of the sinner sets the standard for the Church’s approach to sin and forgiveness. We experience this regularly in the Sacrament of Reconciliation, when we confess our sins, receive God’s total forgiveness, and resolve, with the help of God’s grace, to sin no more and avoid the near occasion of sin. As Chesterton puts it, Christianity “divided the crime from the criminal. The criminal we must forgive unto seventy times seven. The crime we must not forgive at all.” Jesus came to put sin to death and restore sinners to life. Christian ethics embraces *both/and*: *both* the challenge of imitating God’s perfection *and* the consolation of relying on God’s forgiveness.

<sup>1</sup> All references to Chesterton are from *Orthodoxy*, chapter 6: “The Paradoxes of Christianity.”