

FROM FR. JASON



Dear Brothers and Sisters,

This Sunday the Church celebrates Catechetical Sunday. What does the word “catechetical” mean? Many Catholics have used the word “catechism” for years, and they know it has something to do with the compendium of the Church's teachings. The root word, “catechesis,” is from a Greek word meaning “to echo, or resound.” Catechesis is the act of resounding or bringing the Church's teachings to the world. A catechist is one who teaches in the name of the Church.

Parents are truly the primary catechists of their children. They prepare the soil and plant the first seeds of faith. **On Catechetical Sunday, we not only highlight the work of catechists in parishes and schools, but we also commend parents and guardians and encourage them to take seriously their role of making their Catholic households a place where faith is passed on to the next generation.**

In her wisdom, the Church, this Friday the 20th, will celebrate the Memorial of Saints Andrew Kim Tae-gŏn, Priest, and Paul Chŏng Ha-sang, and Companions, who are all recognized as martyrs. St. Andrew Kim Tae-gŏn gives us a great catechesis in the 2nd reading from the Office of Readings on this Memorial in the following excerpt: From the final exhortation of Saint Andrew Kim Taegŏn, priest and martyr.

“My brethren and dear friends, think about this and reflect on it: from the beginning of time God has ordered the heavens, the earth, and all things. Consider the creation of man in this light and reflect on why he has created man, each man, in his image and likeness: why, and with what purpose.

If, then, placed as we are in this world full of danger and misery, we do not know the Lord our creator, what is the point in having been born? Our life is pointless. Thanks to God, we have come into this world. Also, thanks to God, we have received baptism, we have entered the Church, and we have received the glorious name of disciples of the Lord. But what use would that name be if it did not correspond to reality? If it does not, then it is in vain that we have come into the world and entered into the Church. Moreover, such a state of affairs would not serve the Lord and his grace. It would be better for us never to have been born than to receive the grace of the Lord and then sin against him.

Look at the farmer sowing his field. He ploughs the earth at the appropriate time, then he manures it, and he cultivates the growing seed without caring how hard his work is under a hot sun. When harvest time arrives, if the ears are fat then he forgets his labor and his sweat because his heart is full of joy and he delights in the harvest. But if the grains are shriveled and there is nothing but straw and empty husks, then the farmer remembers his sweat and heavy labor: the more he has worked the field, the more he turns his back on it.

It is the same with the Lord. The Earth is his field; we men are his seed; his manure is grace. By the Incarnation and the Redemption, he waters us with his blood so that we can grow and ripen. When the time for harvest comes at the Day of Judgment, if by his grace we are found to be ripe, we shall know the joy of the kingdom as the adoptive children of God. But if we are found to be unripe, we shall have become enemies of God instead of the adoptive sons we were, and we shall receive the eternal punishment we deserve.

My very dear brethren, know this: our Lord Jesus, coming down here, himself suffered pains beyond counting: by his Passion he founded the Church and by the passion of his faithful he makes it grow. The powers of this world may well oppress it and attack it, but they will never have victory over it. After the Ascension of Jesus, from the time of the Apostles until now, the holy Church has grown everywhere in the middle of persecution.”

Peace,