

Homily: 17th Sunday: Cycle C: 2022: Gen 18:20-32; Ps 138: Col 2:12-14; Lk 11: 1-13

“The Spiritual Power of Prayer and Penance for the Conversion of Hardened Sinners”

1. **What is a hardened sinner?** Our Lady of Fatima talks about that at Fatima. It is someone who is obstinate in their evil doing, who refuse to repent or even justify their evil doing and sin as “normal” or fine – sometimes claiming even God is ok with it. You see this especially with the “sins of the flesh” which our Lady told the Fatima children more souls go to Hell for than any other type of sin - when she showed them the vision of Hell on July 13, 1917 and then taught them the Fatima prayer that we say at the end of each decade of the Rosary: ***O My Jesus forgive us our sins, save us from the fires of Hell and lead all souls to Heaven especially those in most need of Thy Mercy.*** How we need that mercy right now in our World and Church! The first reading today with Abraham interceding for the just people in the evil towns of **Sodom and Gomorrah** shows us the power of intercessory prayer, but also the reality of both God’s justice and mercy. The Lord was willing to spare the evil cities if 10 just people could be found, but frighteningly there were not 10 just people, only 6, so the Lord told Abraham to get out before He destroys the 2 evil towns, who were destroyed for practicing widespread homosexual intimate relations to the point that the townsmen even tried to molest the two angels (*see Genesis chapter 19:1-30*) God sent in human form to see what exactly was going on in those towns. We live in a time now where most of the populace of the Western world has been brainwashed especially the young that the homosexual lifestyle is just another option instead of what it actually is which is a grave sin that cries out to Heaven in its perversity; and now we are seeing again the wages of sin is death: 90% of this horrible monkey pox disease is afflicting active homosexuals. So that’s one grave/mortal sin crying out to Heaven in its obstinate evil. But there are so many more: *abortion, heterosexuals being obstinate too with cohabiting before marriage and committing many sins again purity as well; in marriage a lack of real self-giving love and the embrace of the contraceptive mentality – as Our Lady told St. Jacinta there are many marriages that are not pleasing to the Lord; also there are priests & consecrated religious who are not focused on the things of God, but rather material comfort and luxury and giving into to worldliness and sometimes even sins of impurity and don’t teach the true*

Faith. Think of the poor souls who are abused and sold into sexual slavery in different parts of the world. Think of the immigrants and poor of the world treated with abuse and contempt instead of trying to find solutions politically and otherwise to help them. *Greed, lust, pride, anger, envy, gluttony, sloth-* all 7 of the deadly sins can lead to an obstinate and indifferent attitude toward God and the Holy Catholic Faith- to be a hardened sinner.

2. **How can we counter this spiritual obstinacy?** There are many practical ways to do so as the holy visionaries at Fatima and the other saints teach us: *praying more ever day the Rosary and chaplet of Divine Mercy; coming to daily Mass and coming early to pray the group Rosary and Chaplet of Divine Mercy which brings extra graces from God; going to Confession regularly; giving more and more of our material things & money to help other souls; giving up things we like every day: cutting back or out entirely drinking alcohol, eating less than we would like, smoking, chewing tobacco; getting up earlier than we want to as a penance, offering our daily pains & sufferings in body and soul with Our Lady for the conversion of hardened sinners in the world and esp. among our family, and friends and parishioners and neighbors. Asking God to give us a greater share in the Cross to help souls. Cutting back on TV and the things we naturally like for others souls as well in reparation for our past sins.* Hopefully we get the idea and ask the Holy Spirit to make us more in tune with the opportunities to help save souls with Jesus and Mary.

3. **Remember how much the Lord loves us and wants to help us.** No one is sadder about the state of the current world and even the often spiritual mediocrity and lukewarmness in the Church than the Lord and our Blessed Mother Mary. **If we are willing, they will use you and me as special instruments to help them save souls.** *Are we willing to be more generous? To be more detached in a holy way from the passing things of this life? To love our family and friends in the Lord which will call us to pray more and do penance and not cling to other people, even our spouse in a spiritually unhealthy way. To pray especially for the Pope and all the Bishops and priests and deacons and religious to live a more holy life and not compromise with the world when so many souls are in danger of being lost forever. What a noble call to help save hardened sinners.* Let's say Yes to that Divine invite each day and ask God to send us the Holy Spirit to mold us in holiness, for the salvation of souls, under the mantle of our Blessed Mother Mary. God bless you.