

RECALL NOTICE: The Maker of all human beings (GOD) is recalling all units manufactured, regardless of make or year, due to a serious defect in the primary and central component of the heart. This is due to a malfunction in the original prototype units code named Adam and Eve, resulting in the reproduction of the same defect in all subsequent units. This defect has been technically termed "Sub-sequential Internal Non-Morality," or more commonly known as S.I.N., as it is primarily expressed.

Some of the symptoms include:

1. Loss of direction
2. Foul vocal emissions
3. Rude hand gestures
4. Selfishness or violent behavior
5. Depression or confusion in the mental component
6. Fear
7. Worship of money, sex, power, stuff
8. Lack of peace and joy
9. Lack of concern for the poor, the immigrant, the lonely, the different

The Manufacturer, who is neither liable nor at fault for this defect, is providing factory-authorized repair and service free of charge to correct this defect.

The Repair Technician, JESUS, has most generously offered to bear the entire burden of the staggering cost of these repairs. There is no additional fee required. The number to call for repair in all areas is P-R-A-Y-E-R. Once connected, please upload your burden of SIN through the REPENTANCE procedure. Next, download ATONEMENT from the Repair Technician.

No matter how big or small the SIN defect is, Jesus will replace it with:

1. Love
2. Joy
3. Peace
4. Patience
5. Kindness
6. Generosity
7. Faithfulness
8. Gentleness
9. Self-control

Please see the operating manual, the B.I.B.L.E (Basic Instructions Before Leaving Earth) for further details on the use of these fixes.

WARNING: Continuing to operate the human being unit without correction voids any manufacturer warranties, exposing the unit to dangers and problems too numerous to list and will result in the human unit being permanently impounded. For free emergency service, call on Jesus.

DANGER: The human being units not responding to this recall action will have to be scrapped in the furnace. The SIN defect will not be permitted to enter Heaven so as to prevent contamination of that facility. Thank you for your prompt attention! GOD

PS. Please assist where possible by notifying others of this important recall notice, and you may contact the Father at any time by KNEE mail. (from email of Joe Garfunkel, Monday, Dec 27, 2010)

We are here again with another Ash Wednesday, another Lent, another chance – because God is so good to us, so patient with us, sinners all. We are reminded that all of this is very basic – prayer, fasting, almsgiving. We have the same Lenten program every year because we always need it. Plan on doing something in each of the three Lenten categories – prayer, fasting and almsgiving. Be steadfast in prayer for at least 10 minutes a day – if we ride a bus to school or drive a car to work we have a perfect time. Turn off the radio, put down the devices and plug out of effluvia and plug into God. It will change our lives. 10 minutes a day!

Fast. But do so that others may eat. Whatever money we save from giving up soda, beer or wine, desserts, whatever – give it to the poor. Let someone else thrive because we cut back. Our Lenten fast is not an ecclesiastically sponsored diet program!

And give alms. Be generous. There are needs all around us. Don't judge. Don't withhold. Don't worry if a poor person does something frivolous with what you give them. Everybody needs a little bit of fun – especially those for whom life is burdensome and difficult. It is Christ who lives in them. And it is Christ we ignore when we turn away from them. We can support the BAA, Brown Bag, Western Wake, any charity with some extra funds as part of this as well.

Here's how Pope Francis put it: Lent means saying no to the toxic pollution of empty and meaningless words, of harsh and hasty criticism, of simplistic analyses that fail to grasp the complexity of problems, especially the problems of those who suffer the most.

“Lent is the time to say no to a prayer that soothes our conscience, of an almsgiving that leaves us self-satisfied, or a fasting that makes us feel good.

“Lent is the time to say no to relationships that exclude, that try to find God while avoiding the wounds of Christ present in the wounds of His brothers and sisters: in a word, all those forms of spirituality that reduce the faith to a head trip, a ghetto culture, a culture that excludes, especially the poor and the immigrant.” Remember Jesus was the first refugee. (homily of March 1, 2017)

And finally, let us remember the scriptures. Stories that invite us to reflect, and to remember all that God has done for us.

Scripture about a woman who had been bleeding for 12 years. When the world gave up hope for a cure, she gave up on life. But she went to Jesus....touched Him. No more bleeding.

Or a boy who had been away from home for years. He had renounced his family in favor of ambition, money, pleasure. None of it satisfied. He knew the answer: go home. Only there could he begin again. So he decided to go. To grovel. But his father ran out to meet him. Welcomed him back. Told him he belonged there. No questions asked. No groveling.

Where am I this Ash Wednesday? What are my priorities? How much anger, obsession, willfulness, greed, rationalization poisons my life? Isn't there any way out of it? Yes. Yes there is. Jesus Christ. Touch

*“This is not claimed as original material; it is the fruit of years of reading and research, collated by volunteers, but not always correctly footnoted, or not footnoted at all. It was created solely for the purpose of an oral proclamation in the context of the liturgy of the church. Every effort has been made to provide the necessary attribution to the authors of the sources.”*

Him. How? Come home. Come back to church. Every Sunday. No groveling. No excuses. Just come home to church. The Father is waiting. The Mass is a miracle. The Eucharist is the only thing that satisfies our hungry hearts.

Jesus laid it all on the line the night before He died: “Apart from me you can do nothing.” Not some things. “Nothing.” That nothingness we feel in our life? It comes from being apart from Jesus. It all ends when we are reunited with Him. Why stay away? Come home to church, to the Sacraments, to the Eucharist, to mercy and forgiveness, to a new beginning.

“Do you love me?” Jesus asks. The way we spend our Lent decides it. “Do you love me?” The world has plenty of reasons to stay away. Forget what the world says. We belong home, in church. Come home. Get a new start. Touch Jesus. We are made new. Come home. Amen. (Last section adapted from THE MAGNIFICAT LENTEN COMPANION, A TIME OF BLESSING, Feb 25-April 11, 2004, p. 1)

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