

Lenten Soup Supper ~ 2019

The Lost Art of Reconciliation

Tuesday, 02 April 2019

6:00 p.m. ~ Simple Soup Supper in the Community Room

6:30 - 8:30 p.m. ~ Presentation and Conversation

Then Peter came up and said to Jesus, "Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me, how often should I forgive him? As many as seven times?" Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you seven times, but seventy times seven times." -

Matthew 18.21-22

Forgiveness is difficult enough in modern life, but I would suggest that being willing to engage in real reconciliation is far more difficult, more easily misunderstood and far less frequently practiced. The process of reconciliation remains something of a mystery for most Catholics (and, of course, not only Catholics). Many never take seriously the need for wholeness. Others start out down the path of reconciliation but give up when they encounter one of the many obstacles along the way: ego, self-deception, dishonesty and stubbornness, anger, rage – to name just a few. All of which explains why genuine reconciliation is so rare. The work of examining our selves and repairing the relationships we have contributed to breaking is arduous and always has been.

The culture in which we live only compounds the difficulties. The expectation that we can find a quick fix for every problem that arises makes us less prepared to engage in the long, morally demanding work of reconciliation and even less inclined to try. When deception on the one hand and shaming on the other take the place of real relationship, we lose the impetus to cultivate the sort of emotional honesty that reconciliation requires of us.

The Catholic tradition actually has a long-forgotten formula for fostering forgiveness hidden in the framework of the Sacrament of Penance. Spend an evening in conversation exploring the real-world implications of what being-out-of-communication means for your personal life, our church, our society and the future of the human adventure.