

Dear Brothers and Sisters



Can you imagine life without keys? How many doors have you locked or unlocked already today? In the Advent Liturgy there is a prayer which speaks about a key. It is a remarkable prayer.

"O Key of David, what you open no one else can ever close again! What you close no one can open! O Key of David, come to lead the captives from prison! Free all those in darkness and in the shadow of death!"

The 'Key of David' is Our Lord Jesus Christ. He can open a door before us that no other key can open; a door that leads to new hope and peace, to truth and integrity, to purity and love.

And he can close and lock behind us the door through which fear and anxiety, bitterness and remorse, guilt and shame, have so often entered our lives, sometimes making our lives hell.

He can close the door firmly in the face of so much from our past, our history that comes to accuse us and mock us, to haunt us and humiliate us; and all the lies we have fed on and believed.

He can set us free from our captivity and slavery; from all the things that chain us and imprison us; from those dungeons where we sit in terrible loneliness or dark despair, often hating ourselves.

He can rescue us from the solitary confinement of our selfishness and greed; and from everything that prevents us from going out in love, compassion and friendship to others.

Jesus Christ, the 'Key of David', can break the hold that evil has on us, the tight grip of moral lapses, sexual sins, laziness and indifference, cunning and hypocrisy.

He can help us to rise above the strange compulsive needs that our ego often inflicts on us; the addictions that seem to dominate us. He can purify our desires and calm the heat of our crazy and sometimes violent thoughts; and all our disordered urges and passions.

Christ can conquer death in us; the death we daily experience when we want to escape and deny the truth about our lives; or to run away from the responsibilities we know are ours in the family, or work.

The Church wants each of us to meet Christ, the 'Key of David', and to experience his healing touch and his saving grace. But where? Where can we meet Christ? Where can we find him?

We can meet him in the Sacrament of Reconciliation, the Sacrament of his Mercy and Forgiveness. The Church invites you -you who are reading this- to find him there. Yes, there we can meet him!

The Church calls us, encourages us, and urges us, to make a simple and sincere confession of our sins; without fear, without anxiety. And to place our lives under the gaze of God's love and mercy.

How long since your last confession? Weeks? Months? Years? It does not matter. What does matter is that you take this opportunity now.

It is a very great gift of God to you. Do not let this opportunity pass you by. The Advent Deanery Liturgy of Reconciliation, with the opportunity for individual confession, will take place this Monday, December 17th at 7:00pm in Our Lady of Mercy, Park Ridge.

Priests from other parishes will be here. One of them will hear your confession. And God will inspire this priest to give you a word of enlightenment, hope and encouragement for your life!

You can confess in English, Italian, Spanish, Polish, or even Swahili!! Come! There is a place reserved for you. The 'Key of David' will be turned in your favor.

Fr. Sean