

Chris Stein Communion Reflection
Tuesday, Thirty second week of Ordinary Time
November 10, 2020

Good morning everyone!

I think two things stand out for us today.

First, love of God in your state of life. We believe that holiness can be found in all states of life. A life of prayer and religion is available for people in all walks of life. It is not reserved to one state of people. All are called: the married, those in Holy Orders, those in religious life, and those living the consecrated single-life.

The hierarchy do not solely make up the Church. We all make up the Church and are all called to live a life of discipleship.

The reality is that we are all called to relationship with God. We are accountable for taking the time to develop this relationship. Now, I understand that life can be busy and we have many things going on, but as the saying goes: “we make times for the things we love.” So we must emphasize that each day time must be made to enter into Communion with God.

And the second point: We have been delivered from lawlessness, and given to the ways of God. As Catholics, we have a morality code and belief system. And the Church does not just come up with these rules to restrict people.

Now it is quite clear that in much of the world, a doctrine of moral relativism has taken over. This relativism taken to its logical ending would have us believe that nothing is objectively wrong or sinful, that if it makes you happy do it, that life is about me, myself, and I. This has led to so, so many evils. It has led to the discarding of human life: under this theory the world tries and justifies things like euthanasia, lack of concern and care for the poor and vulnerable, discarding of the unborn. It has led to the use of people, people are not seen as creatures of God with a dignity deserving of being upheld, protected, and cherished. No, they are seen as objects of mutual use. This moral relativism is a theory that proposes freedom to do what you want with no consequences. Yet we know the consequences, the genuine struggles that people face that leave them entrapped: addiction, debt, self-hate, despair. This really is a theory from hell: it promises freedom and leaves us broken and chained.

The laws of the Church combat this, really meaningless life. The laws of the Church make us truly free. Despite the perceptions of many, the teachings of the Church are not just a bunch of men who make arbitrary rules to keep people down.

The laws offer to humanity the freedom that Christ gives. The Church wants to direct you to a life of virtue and meaning. The testament to this is the lives of the saint. Each and every saint was free. Each and every saint had interior joy.

I would encourage everyone, when we encounter a problem we think that we have, with Church teaching, do not just reject or ignore it. Pray about it, ask questions, do the research. Look at the Catechism, contact your priest. I know in my life, everytime I have struggled with understanding Church teaching, the Church has always ended up being right after I research and pray. I also think of the example of the encyclical *Humane Vitae*. Pope Saint Paul VI was criticized heavily for this document condemning the use of artificial birth control. He was even criticized by many in the hierarchy, yet, fifty-two years later, every prediction he made came true: There was an increase in 1. “marital infidelity and a general lowering of moral standards,” we now seem 2. We forgot “the reverence due to a woman,” amongst other predictions. Paul VI was absolutely right in his predictions.

So for us to remember today:

- You, you personally, are called to be holy. You are called to a life of relationship with God. It must be the top priority in our lives. You are called to follow Him.

And

- Church teaching is to set men and women free from our sins and chains and to allow us to live an authentic life given in love.

May the Lord open our eyes today.