

*Nineteenth Sunday of Ordinary Time
Ninth Sunday After Pentecost (TLM)
August 7, 2022
Year of Saint Joseph*

“First, and most frequently mentioned, was a sentiment that they desired clarity in the presentation of the Church’s teaching. Roughly 20 percent of the respondents articulated this desire in one form or another. Phrases such as “Educating Catholics about their faith is one of the ways that our Church accompanies people” were mentioned.”
(Archdiocese of Mobile, Report on the Synod on Synodality Survey, p.1)

May I begin today by thanking our Deacons and you, our family, for the support shown concerning the effort we have made, over the past seventeen years, to both teach and explain our Catholic faith. Yet this desire to both convey and receive the Catholic faith did not begin with anyone here, nor did it begin with anyone living in our world today. It actually began many years ago as a response to the great commission of Our Lord Jesus who instructed His Apostles and disciples to: *“Going therefore, **teach** ye all nations; baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.”* (Matthew 28:19). Furthermore, it was again encouraged by Pope Saint Pius X who in his Encyclical **Acerbo nimis** of April 15, 1905: *“declared that adults, no less than children, need religious instruction, especially in these days. And hence he prescribed that pastors and all who have care of souls should give catechetical instruction to the faithful in simple language, and in a way suited to the capacity of their hearers, and that for this purpose they should use the Catechism of the Council of Trent.”* (Excerpt taken from *The Catechism of the Council of Trent*).

Despite this, some listening may find themselves asking the all too familiar one-word question concerning our emphasis upon teaching the Catholic faith — “Why?” This is a very good question and one I hope to answer this day. Why is it important to learn about the Catholic faith through our study of Christian Doctrine? Secondly, what is the Christian Doctrine?

In the Preliminary Lesson of the Catechism which bears his name, Pope Saint Pius X taught that a true Christian is one who is baptized and who believes and professes the Christian Doctrine. In answer to the second question from the preceding paragraph, the Christian Doctrine consists of four necessary principals: (1) The Creed, (2) The Our Father, (3) The Commandments, (4) The Sacraments. It is this Christian Doctrine which, being both taught by Our Lord Jesus Christ and handed down to us through His Catholic Church, we hold as both true and showing us the way to salvation. He would further write that we who are parents and guardians have a “grave” responsibility to make sure our children learn this doctrine through both our example, we, first, learning and living our faith and our immovable stance that they actively attend Catechism of Christian Doctrine (CCD) classes. Please, bear with me. Allow me to state again, whether you are a parent or a guardian, (I also include priests and religious as parents and guardians) we all have a “grave” responsibility to learn the Christian Doctrine and make sure our children are taught it and learn it as well. Why? For our and their salvation!

My family, the word of importance we need to hear is salvation. This one word is and has always been the key as to why we do what we do. From the age of the apostles and disciples to our own time, men and women have spent themselves completely to hand on this Christian Doctrine. Through the heroic fortitude of the red and white martyrs, to the sanctity of those who traversed the

globe professing, the Truth of the Christian Doctrine has endured. These witness to the truth of both the Doctrine itself, and the genuine love one can have for one's neighbor.

As we slowly begin this new school year, let us not usher to the rear this most serious, grave responsibility. Plan your weekend schedule around making sure your children attend CCD classes. Inspire them to participate by learning and living the Catholic Faith yourselves. Your salvation and the salvation of your children spurs me on to say these things. It is through "encouraging" sermons such as this that I am reminded of a description I once heard repeated of myself by an unnamed parishioner. In describing their pastor to someone outside of the parish, they said of me: "He is the step-father no child wants, but the step-father every child needs."