

# FORGIVENESS, PEACE AND JOY

## Pope Francis, Shepherd of Truth

Notable quotations from Pope Francis and official teachings  
of the Roman Catholic Church

### **GOD'S FORGIVENESS**

Our confession gives the Father the joy of raising us up once more. It is not so much about our sins as about His forgiveness. Our sins are present but the forgiveness of God is always at the heart of our confession.

### **ASTONISHING AND OVERWHELMING**

Let us recognize once more *primacy of grace* and ask for the gift to realize that Reconciliation is not primarily our drawing near to God, but His embrace that enfolds, astonishes and overwhelms us. The Lord enters our home ... and brings us unexpected amazement and joy — the joy of forgiveness.

### **REDISCOVER LOVE, JOY**

Let us first look at things from God's perspective: then we will rediscover our love for Confession. We need this, for every interior rebirth, every spiritual renewal, starts there, from God's forgiveness. May we not neglect Reconciliation, but rediscover it as *the sacrament of joy*. Yes, the sacrament of joy, for our shame for our sins becomes the occasion for an experience of the warm embrace of the Father, the gentle strength of Jesus who heals us, and the "maternal tenderness" of the Holy Spirit. That is the heart of Confession.



### **WIDE OPEN**

... Let us go forth and receive forgiveness. And you, dear brother priests who are ministers of God's forgiveness, offer to those who approach you the joy of this proclamation: *Rejoice, the Lord is with you!* Please set aside rigidity, obstacles and harshness; may you be doors wide open to mercy!

### **FEAR NOT**

God knows your weaknesses and is greater than your mistakes. God is greater than our sins. He asks of you only one thing: that you not hold your frailties and sufferings inside. Bring them to Him, lay them before Him and from being reasons to despair, they will become opportunities for resurrection. Do not be afraid!

### **RETURN TO GOD**

We need the closeness of God and the certainty of His forgiveness, which alone eliminates evil, disarms resentment and restores peace to our hearts, Let us return to God and to His forgiveness.

### **COME, HOLY SPIRIT!**

We ask the Lord for many things, but how often we forget to ask Him for what is most important and what He desires to give us: the Holy Spirit, the power to love.

### **CHANGE YOUR HEART**

If we want the world to change, then first our hearts must change. For this to happen, let us allow Our Lady to take us by the hand. Let us gaze on her Immaculate Heart in which God dwelt ... God changed history by knocking at the door of Mary's heart.

(Source: homily, celebration of the sacrament of penance with the act of consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, 3/25/22)

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