2020: Seeing the Devil Clearly

Session 3 – Participant Handout

CHAPTER 1 – DEMONIC POSESSION

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- If a child expresses fear about the devil or concern about temptations, how can I pastorally redirect them toward trust in God's love and protection?
- How can my own witness reassure learners that Christ's light always overcomes darkness?

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CHAPTER 2 – SATAN'S PATHWAYS TO OUR SOULS

DISCUSSION QUESTION

- Given the easy accessibility of occult practices today, and how they are masked as entertainment (e.g., horoscopes, Ouija boards, tarot card readings, and satanic music via YouTube and other online platforms), what are some concrete things you can do to help your students understand and avoid engaging in these practices?

NOTES

- It would be prudent to note what the CCC teaches on this matter.
    - 2116 **All forms of *divination* are to be rejected**: recourse to Satan or demons, conjuring up the dead or other practices falsely supposed to "unveil" the future. Consulting horoscopes, astrology, palm reading, interpretation of omens and lots, the phenomena of clairvoyance, and recourse to mediums all conceal a desire for power over time, history, and, in the last analysis, other human beings, as well as a wish to conciliate hidden powers. They contradict the honor, respect, and loving fear that we owe to God alone.
- Engaging in practices of divination as noted in CCC 2116 constitutes a grievous sin when approached knowingly and deliberately to ascertain the future or invoke spirits (e.g., invoking spirits to harm others or gather information, or relying on divined information for guidance and decision making). Gravity may be mitigated through ignorance or lack

of belief rendering the act venial (e.g., considering a Ouija Board merely a game and not believing in it, while sinful, would be venial in nature, consulting horoscopes for guidance unaware that doing so was sinful would be venial, or engaging in superstitious behavior simply in ignorance or weakness of mind would be venial).

CHAPTER 3 – THE TWO STANDARDS: CHRIST & SATAN

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- There's a war being waged for every soul. How do I equip myself and those I teach to resist temptation and remain steadfast under Christ's banner?
- What practices help me stay rooted in Christ's mission rather than being swayed by worldly measures?

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CHAPTER 4 – HOW TO WIN THE SPIRITUAL BATTLE

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- *Using St. Paul's armor of God analogy below, which pieces of armor do you rely on the most to grow in holiness and resist evil and temptation? Which pieces of armor could use more attention in your life and what's one concrete step you can take to strengthen that area?*
  - The Belt of Truth – standing firm in Catholic morality, living with integrity as a disciple of Christ Jesus in word and deed, being faithful to the Gospel message and all teachings of the Church.
  - The Breastplate of Righteousness – surrounding oneself with holiness and holy things like regular participation in the sacrament life, a consistent prayer life, making choices that reflect God's justice, mercy, and love.
  - The Gospel of Peace (shod feet) – "Ignorance of Scripture is ignorance of Christ" (St. Jerome): reading the bible daily, reflect on and pray with God's Word. Preach the Gospel in word and deed by living as a witness to your love for Christ and His Church.
  - The Shied of Faith – faith is a theological virtue that is a gift from God and rooted in God. Seek God's assistance and the intercession of the angels and saints in defense against doubts, fears, temptations, and worry.
  - The Helmet of Salvation – belief in the saving power of Christ and of His bride, the Church
  - Sword of the Spirit – reliance on the Word of God in defense of the lies and deception of the Evil One, as Jesus did in the desert.

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CHAPTER 5 – ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION: PART 1

DISCUSSION QUESTION

- What is your biggest takeaway from this course and how will the knowledge gleaned help you in discussing evil, temptation, and the devil with your students?

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CHAPTER 6 – ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION: PART 2

DISCUSSION QUESTION

- Think of a child you teach or have taught who has believed a harmful lie about themselves. How could you help this child let go of that lie and embrace the truth of who they are in Christ, receiving the Father's blessing of love and identity?

NOTES

CHAPTER 7 – ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION: PART 3

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Are there times when I struggle to teach the faith clearly and boldly due to fear, lack of conviction, or differing opinion? How might temptation and the devil be influencing this struggle?
- How does my witness shape the way students receive the truths I teach?

NOTES

FINAL REMINDERS

- The Course Facilitator will notify the Office for Catechetical Formation of your course completion.
- The Office for Catechetical Formation will update your certification record within two weeks and email you a copy of your catechetical record. If you have completed your Master Certification, a certificate will also be sent via email.
- It is ***YOUR*** responsibility to forward a copy of the certification record to the Principal and/or Director of Religious Education.
- If you do not receive your record ***after*** two weeks, contact the Office of Catechetical Formation via email: phillyocf@archphila.org.
- Your feedback is important to us as we strive to improve our courses. Please take five minutes to complete the course survey using the QR code provided on this handout.

CLOSING PRAYER



St. Michael the Archangel,
defend us in battle.
Be our protection against the wickedness and
snares of the Devil.
May God rebuke him, we humbly pray,
and do thou,
O Prince of the heavenly hosts,
by the power of God,
thrust into hell Satan,
and all the evil spirits,
who prowl about the world
seeking the ruin of souls.
Amen