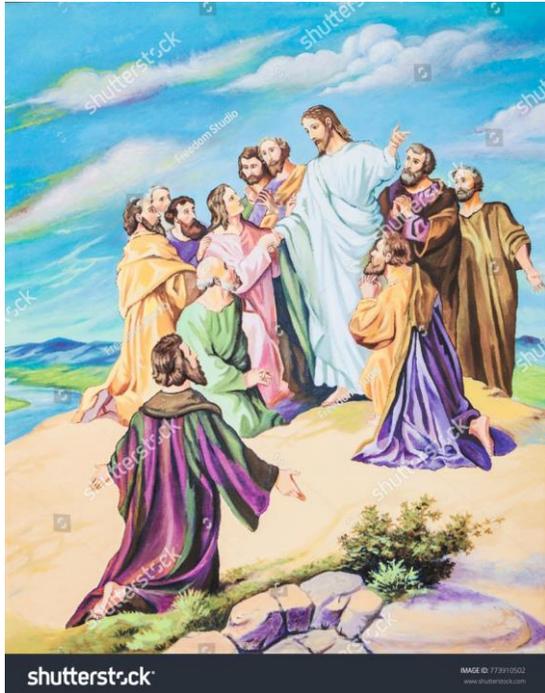


Reflection: The Promised One by Scott Hahn, Ph.D.

In today's Gospel Jesus has just been healing and casting out demons in Galilee. Along with the crowds, who flock to Him so that He can't even take a break to eat, come people who do not understand what He is doing. Even His friends think He has lost His mind and needs to be taken away for a while. But the scribes who came down from Jerusalem are not just honestly mistaken; they accuse Him of being possessed by the prince of demons.



The reality is just the opposite. Jesus is revealing Himself as the one promised in our First Reading. He is the seed of the woman who has come to crush the head of the demonic serpent. In the parable of the strong man, Jesus reveals that He has come not just to punish the devil but to free those bound by him. As St. Bede explains, "The Lord has also bound the strong man, that is, the devil: which means, He has restrained him from seducing the elect, and entering into his house, the world; He has spoiled his house, and His goods, that is men, because He has snatched them from the snares of the devil, and has united them to His Church."

The scribes blaspheme by attributing this work of the Holy Spirit to demons. Jesus adds a statement that shocks us at first: "whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit never has forgiveness." That does not mean that there are any limits to the mercy of God (CCC 1864). Rather, the only sin that cannot be forgiven is the deliberate refusal to accept the mercy offered through the Holy Spirit. Instead, we must imitate those who sat at Jesus' feet. For, as He said, "Whoever does the will of God is my brother, and sister, and mother."

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CONSOLATA SHRINE

TENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

10TH June 2018



FIRST READING

"I will put enmity between your seed and her seed"

A reading from the Book of Genesis

[After Adam had eaten of the tree,] the Lord God called to him, and said to him, "Where are you?" And he said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; and I hid myself." He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate." Then the Lord God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent beguiled me, and I ate." The Lord God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, cursed are you above all cattle, and above all wild animals; upon your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel."

Genesis 3:9-15

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Psalm 130:1-8 9R7bc)

R. With the Lord there is mercy, in him is plentiful redemption

Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord; Lord, hear my voice!

O let your ears be attentive to the sound of my pleading. **R**

If you, O Lord, should mark iniquities,
Lord, who could stand?

But with you is found forgiveness,
that you may be revered. **R**

I Long for you, O Lord, my soul longs for his word.

My soul hopes in the Lord more than watchmen
for daybreak.

More than watchmen for daybreak, let Israel
hope for the Lord. **R**



For with the Lord there is mercy, in him is plentiful redemption.
It is he who will redeem Israel from all its iniquities. **R**

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SECOND READING**2 Corinthians 4:13 – 5: 1***“We believe, and so we speak.”***A reading from the Second Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians**

Brethren: Since we have the same spirit of faith as he had who wrote, “I believed, and so I spoke,” we too believe, and so we speak, knowing that he who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and bring us with you into his presence. For it is all for your sake, so that as grace extends to more and more people it may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God. So we do not lose heart. Through our outer man is wasting away, our inner man is being renewed every day. For this slight momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, because we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen; for the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal. For we know that if the earthy tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.



Alleluia *Now shall the ruler of this world be cast out, says the Lord; and I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to myself.*

Alleluia.**GOSPEL****Mark 3:20-35***“Satan is coming to an end.”***A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark**

At that time, Jesus went home with his disciples; and the crowd came together again, so that they could not even eat. And when his friends heard it, they went out to seize him, for they said, “He is beside himself.” And the scribes who came down from Jerusalem said, “He is possessed by Beelzebul, and by the prince of demons he casts out the demons.” And he called them to him, and said to them in parables, “How can Satan cast out Satan? If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. And if a house is divided against itself, that house will not be able to stand. And if Satan has risen up against himself and is divided, he cannot stand, but is coming to an end. But no one can enter a strong man’s house and plunder his goods, unless he first binds the strong man; then indeed he may plunder his house. “Truly, I say to you, all sins will be forgiven the sons of men, and whatever blasphemies they utter; but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit never has forgiveness, but is guilty of an eternal sin” – for they had said, “He has an unclean spirit.” And his mother and his brethren came; and standing outside they sent to him and called him. And a crowd was sitting about him; and they said to him, “Your mother and your brethren are outside, asking for you.” And he replied, “Who are my mother and my brethren?” and looking around on those who sat about him, he said, “Here are my mother and my

brethren! Whoever does the will of God is my brother, and sister, and mother.”

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Couples planning to get married are asked to register for premarital counselling sessions. Sessions will begin with their parents meeting on Saturday 30th June 2018. Kindly register at the Catechists Office.
2. The Novena of Our Lady Consolata has begun with a special reflection at all Masses. Let us come and pray through the intercession of our Patroness for our families and the whole country.
3. There will be a thanksgiving mass on Saturday 16th June presided over by Bishop Peter Kihara at 10 am in honor of Sr. Leonella. All are welcome.
4. Next Sunday 17th of June is the Feast of Our Lady Consolata. The masses will be as follows: 7.30am, 9.30am, 11.30am and 5.30pm. Please note there will be no 10.30am and 12pm Mass.
5. The 7.30am Choir is appealing for new members to join. Religious sisters & Brothers are also encouraged to join. For more information, visit the table at the gazebo.
6. The Proclaimers are appealing to Parishioners who wish to join the Ministry of Proclamation of the Word of God, especially MEN and YOUTH. For more information, visit the table at the gazebo.
7. The Allamano Centre keeps growing. We keep appealing for your prayers and contributions towards the completion of this project. Visit the tables at the gazebo for your contributions and pledges. God bless you!

Sunday 17th June 2018 Consolata Day Mass Schedule

7.30am	Kiswahili Mass
9.30am	English Mass
11.30am	Procession of the Icon of our Lady Consolata in the School Compound (English Mass)
5.30pm	Candle lit Rosary Procession