
Why Penance?

John is buying a red hot issue of his favorite literature. Little Jimmy has been told to obey promptly, and he is kicking like fury. Sue is speaking softly to Sally about the faults of Mary Jane. And as for Joe, he's at his petty thievery again. That's the picture.

II.

And it's a picture of sin. You may not be John, Jimmy, Joe or Sue, but you fit into the picture somehow too. Haven't you sinned? I don't know how: cheating, lying, immodesty in thought, impurity in act, laziness, intemperance. Don't you classify yourself as a sinner? Haven't you offended God? Then you are a sinner too.

III.

Every sin is an offense, an insult, dishonor given to the Good God. Must not sons undo their evil, pay back the honor they have withheld from their Father? Any act done to right past wrongs is called PENANCE. It may be prayer, or self-denial, or greater effort to do better. If it is done with the motive of repairing the past, it's PENANCE. Lent is a time for all Johnnies and Jimmies, Joes and Sues, everyone, to pray and deny self. Have you started?

IV.

Lent is a time for more fervent prayer. Mass is prayer, Adoration before the Blessed Sacrament is prayer. The Stations, the Rosary are prayer. Are you doing any extra praying? Aren't you a sinner? Some sinners are miserable because they have run away from Christ and His mercy. Sinners, come to Christ and pray. "Pray, lest you enter into temptation."

V.

You must persevere in PENANCE. Otherwise, you are doomed! "Unless you do penance, you shall likewise perish." Lent is seven days old. And so far some students, some sinners, have not performed one act of penance. They must start with Confession. It's easy. Christ is merciful.

VI.

John, wake up. Jimmy, get on your knees. Sue, deny yourself. Joe, get to Mass. Everyone, do penance, for by your sins YOU have nailed Christ to the Cross.

