



Knights of Columbus Council 9542

THE CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY OF AMERICA

Washington, DC 20064

In Service to One, In Service to All

"I confess to Almighty God and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have greatly sinned in my thoughts and in my words, in what I have done and in what I have failed to do..."

Out of all the wonderful prayers that we have in our Catholic Faith, the Confiteor is among my top favorites. It's such an important prayer to me because it so articulately expresses our sinful faults as humans, no matter how devoted we may be to Christ. It shows that as shameful as our sins may be there is still such a beauty in being able to confess not only to God but to each other that we acknowledge our shortcomings as imperfect beings. I also find it so important to recognize that sin can be a result of not only what we say or do, but of what we don't say or don't do.

Imagine for a moment what a day without sin would be like. Unfortunately, some sinful activities have become habitual for our generation, as seen in today's gossip culture and egocentric society. What would it take to go a day without sinning? Would you have to refrain from talking so as to not spread rumors or make fun of people? Would you have to be temporarily blind so as to not lust after someone's body rather than their personality? Would you have to stay home all day so as to not be tempted by others to sin? Sure, this would help us prevent some sinful actions, but it would also cause us to commit other sins. By not talking, we wouldn't be able to express our love for our friends, family, and God, or share the Good News. By not being able to see, we wouldn't be able to recognize injustice in the world and stand up for what is right. And by not going out, we wouldn't be able to perform spiritual or corporal works of mercy in our communities.

And so you might be tempted to say that it's just impossible not to sin. If we're set up for failure, why even try? This is a self-fulfilling prophecy, and it is the reason that we must always live in the example of Christ. We may never reach perfection or make it

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through a day without sinning, but that does not mean we should ever stop trying. And we should certainly never stop asking for God's forgiveness.

In the Gospel according to Matthew, we are told, *"Keep watching and praying that you may not enter into temptation; the spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak"* (26:41). All around us we are surrounded by temptation. It can come in the form of the people we associate with, the media we choose to indulge ourselves in, or even the interests we choose to hold above what really matters.

In a survey performed by a Christian magazine, participants ranked their greatest temptations in the following order: materialism, pride, self-centeredness, laziness, anger, lust, envy, gluttony and then lying. It's not hard to see that our society places great emphasis on having the nicest things and making sure others know it. On our campus, we see this in the high popularity of expensive fashion and keeping up to date with the latest trends. Imagine if we put the same energy into our relationship with God that we put into our earthly desires. How would your priorities change? What about the buyer's remorse of temptation? I always feel immediate regret after realizing that the consequence of temptation is far greater than the benefit. The distance between us and God created by temptation will never be worth the brief pleasure brought by giving into temptation.

As Knights of Columbus on this campus, we have the ability to show our peers that the best trend to follow is Jesus Christ. His message is one that will never go out of style and whose benefits will always be worthwhile. Let us reflect on how we can decrease sin and temptation in our own lives and help our brothers and sisters in Christ to do the same.

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