

Sun:

“Jesus said to his disciples: *“You are the salt of the earth. But if salt becomes tasteless...it is good for nothing.”* Today salt rarely loses its taste or function to preserve / In the ancient world salt could lose these important qualities.

-To be salt and light is to work to preserve life, to seek purity and holiness. “St. John Chrysostom wrote that Jesus was saying that human nature had ‘lost its taste, and become spoiled through sin.” The Greek can also mean “to become foolish and dull.”

-So How do we become this salt and the light of the world?

**Let’s start here: God is an exchange of Divine Love.
And God created you and me to participate & share in this exchange.**

-Family, Marriage, Relationships, and Work are all ways we can participate (Why St. J.Paul II said marriage and family were necessary for a healthy society).

-And it all starts with us! / This message has been on my heart all week.

-Christ isn’t only focused on sin (and Forgiveness). He has an infinitely greater goal: our sharing in His Divine Life and work.

When we hold on to something about ourselves that is contrary to the Father’s plan for the fullness of being human (Imago Dei) - we limit our ability to participate in the Divine love & life of the Blessed Trinity. (Including: FAMILY, MARRIAGE, WORK, SOCIETY, WORKS OF CHARITY AND FOR THE POOR).

-The Holy Father during the “Angelus” on January 22nd said: *“Our vices and our sins” are like “anchors that hold us at the shore and prevent us from setting sail...to stay with Jesus, therefore, requires the courage to leave, to set out”...To leave behind what? Our vices and sins.”* Yes, we are to invite and include, but not at the expense of leaving others and ourselves mired in sin that separates us from God. The laws of God are laws of a loving Father so his children may live in his joy. The Church needs the courage, and love, to be clear in inviting people to leave their sin. What Jesus offers is better than what the world offers.

-When we don’t hold back / And are not afraid to give all our sins to God / He will show us a path “daily” to freedom and to enter more fully into His Divine Life. But we are a work in progress / That is why we have Confession and Mass.

-Don’t shortchange yourself: When we deny or rationalize sin, reject church teaching / Or even after Confession and Pardon beat ourselves up / We limit our participation in His Divine exchange of Love.

But through Confession and Mass: We can be free to live with hope and joy / To be “Simply Catholic” / To become the salt and light through our participation in the Divine Plan of God.

-I was reading about Cardinal George: He spoke of being “Simply Catholic;” *He was a vigorous advocate of Church teaching on the right to life, the dignity of the unborn, and the nature of marriage and family, but an equally strong advocate for the needs of the poor and the Christian duty to respect all persons, including those struggling with sexual sins and vices that are contrary to church teaching on marriage and family. And Cardinal George wanted to bring us freedom from these sins and vices. “Jesus comes to us where we are, but He doesn’t want us to stay there.”*

-We live at a moment when we urgently need the witness of good Christian men and women. In the life of the Church, we need leaders of courage and Catholic fidelity; Those who will accompany the poor and the broken. . .and also lead them authentically to God. To be “Simply Catholic,” not I’m Catholic but....

I will end with this helpful tool: One way to participate in this exchange of love / To help us become the salt and light to a world in darkness: confused about who we are, and where we’re going.

“Thinking of Mass as an obligation is really a backwards way of looking at it. Going to Mass is an extraordinary privilege. Instead of trying to decide when you have to go, why not go as often as you can.”

When we attend Mass we are taken up into the very activity, intercession, and salvific action of Jesus Christ for each of us in attendance. Talk about God giving us a share in His Divine Life and Love!!!