

Name _____

Unit 4 Reading Guide

The Paschal Mystery and Real Life

Chapter 9: Personal Suffering and the Paschal Mystery

Article 36: Making Sense of Suffering

1. Jesus Christ's _____ and death led to his _____ and _____, so we know that God can bring _____ out of suffering. Still, the Paschal Mystery is exactly what it says it is: a _____, a _____ we can never fully understand.
2. In much of the _____, there is a simple explanation for suffering: when someone does something wrong or bad, God _____ that person. [This] concept of divine _____ might appeal to our sense of fairness and justice, but it is _____.
3. God is unbound by _____ and _____ and knows all things _____, _____, and _____. Grasping why good people suffer is not within our capability, so it remains a _____ to us.
4. Ultimately, the best _____ we have that suffering is not a punishment for sin is that _____ suffered.
5. We can't avoid _____ and _____ suffering; it is part of human life. But we can control how we deal with it. If we choose to find the good in our suffering, it can be a _____ toward _____ and _____.
6. The _____ of good coming from suffering is in Jesus' Paschal Mystery. His suffering and self-sacrifice lead us on a path toward _____ and _____.
7. Uniting our personal sufferings and _____ with Christ's is part of being a _____. We do this not only because of our hope and faith in our _____ reward in Heaven but also to make _____ for the hurt and harm caused by our own personal sins.
8. Sacrifice does not have to be a grand, life-threatening endeavor. Consider the following _____, everyday examples of _____ sacrifices you can make:
 - _____ with a _____ classmate or family member instead of going out to have fun with friends
 - sacrificing your popularity by not giving into _____ to participate in _____ activities
 - _____ your time and money to those in need instead of spending it on _____
9. _____ all over the world make sacrifices daily. Not only have they discovered that the _____ provides the strength they need, but they've also discovered that they have _____ much more than they have ever lost.



Article 37: Is Accepting Suffering a Sign of Weakness?

1. Accepting suffering is not a sign of _____. The Paschal Mystery of Jesus clearly shows that the _____ to accept suffering takes a great deal of _____ and _____.
2. Jesus' suffering was not limited to his Passion and death. He endured _____ and _____ throughout his _____.
3. Similarly, knowing that sacrifice and suffering have an important _____ in God's plan of salvation doesn't automatically make it _____ for us to _____ and _____ suffering in our own lives.
4. Jesus himself made it clear that _____ him was not always going to be easy. The good news is that we don't have to do it _____. Such sacrifice is possible only through our _____ and _____ God who desires to help us on this journey.

Article 38: Finding Strength in Times of Weakness

1. We all have personal _____ as well as limitations and _____. The good news is that knowing our personal strengths and weaknesses raises our _____ and can help us make good life decisions.
2. We were made to be in _____ with [God] and with others. This becomes all the more apparent when we face our _____ and _____. There is a vast difference between the experience of facing these things _____ and facing them with _____.
3. The following are some ideas for reaching out to God and to others, which can help us to find _____ in times of weakness:
 - Reach out to _____ and _____ to talk about your _____.
 - Read the accounts of Jesus' Passion. Here we are reminded that we are not _____, that God is _____, and that he has suffered as a _____ too.
 - Pray the _____.
 - Set aside some time for daily _____.
4. Taking our weaknesses to God and others can help us _____ our situation differently. Rather than seeing it as a _____ we must endure, we might be able to start looking at it as a time to _____, a time to strengthen _____ and our _____ with God and with loved ones.
5. Almost all of the suffering we experience in this lifetime will be _____. We can be _____ that _____ days are ahead.
6. Ultimately, our story does not _____ in this lifetime. We can find _____ in looking forward to the _____ and _____ we will share with God in our _____.



Article 39: How Do I Cope with Suffering?

1. When someone we know experiences a great _____, like a death, or is dealing with immense physical or mental _____, there is often a desire to help them make _____ of what has happened or is happening. However, we should _____ trying to come up with easy _____.
2. One of the most _____ things you can do for anyone who is suffering is to just be _____ and _____ to them. Let them talk about their pain without trying to _____ their problems.
3. Another important thing to remember is to _____ something that may make the person feel _____, no matter how _____ it might be.
4. Suffering is often accompanied with an _____ into the meaning of life. It is natural to _____ why bad things happen. People need _____ to struggle with these difficult issues.
5. A question to ask that can be helpful [when you experience suffering] is “_____ is God _____ me?” This question is _____ in the _____ that God can bring good out of any situation.
6. The grappling with questions such as, “Why did God _____ this to happen?” must be given special _____. As mentioned in the beginning of this article, there are no _____ to questions that seek to understand the _____ of suffering. However, the struggle to understand can lead us to a _____ relationship with God and with one another. Instead of weakening our faith, it can _____ it.
7. Offering our burdens up to God can act as a sort of training in _____ and a reminder of Christ’s _____ of _____. This practice does not yield _____ results, though. After a while, we do become more _____ with the _____ nature of Christ’s and our own suffering.

Chapter 10: Communal Suffering

Article 40: Sinful Violence

1. The [Israelites] understood that God’s _____ required justice for the terrible sins people committed. Yet throughout their history, God also _____ to them his _____ and _____.
2. In the New Testament, Jesus _____ and _____ reveals God because he *is* God. If we look to Jesus’ _____ and _____, it’s clear that God’s nature is not primarily rooted in divine retributive justice.
3. From the cross, [Jesus] asked the Father to _____ those who were crucifying him (see Luke 23:34). The _____ soldiers knew they were putting someone to death. However, it is _____ that they knew they were crucifying an _____ man, and they certainly didn’t know they were _____ the _____ of _____.



4. In some cases [of mass violence], there is a psychological _____ that prevents them [the perpetrators] from completely understanding the _____ of their _____. In the case of _____ by religious _____, they are often under the influence of _____ leaders. _____ violence is often the result of _____ and unchallenged _____.
5. How could God ever _____ the brutal _____ of small _____ into his heavenly home? Yet, in the _____ of the Paschal Mystery, we find God's loving _____ for even those who killed the most _____ of all.
6. The love that God has for his people calls us not only to _____ but also to _____ these violent acts from _____.
7. Violence does not happen without a _____. It is most often _____ in one form of sin or another: _____, greed, fear, _____, or injustices like _____ or _____. To end violence, we must address its _____ in our own _____.

Article 41: Human Failings

1. Communal sin is "the _____ influence exerted on people by _____ and _____ that are the fruit of men's sins"¹ (CCC, number 408).
2. Communal sins are often the results of _____, neglect, or a lack of _____. Even though there is no _____ person to blame, a communal sin is no less _____. A community's _____ to acknowledge _____ like a broken penal system, drug abuse, _____, and poor health care can be _____.
3. Quite often, we are _____ of the unjust situations and _____ that deny people the _____ and justice to live fully. Although it is impossible to be _____ of every situation, Christians are called to _____ themselves about the world around them and to _____ when necessary.
4. Unfortunately, there are people in governments, businesses, and even _____ who use their power from _____ for their own gain and to the _____ of others. They've become _____. Corruption is the _____ conduct by those in _____ by which they take _____ of those they lead or serve.
5. As citizens and _____, we are called to make sure that our _____ and _____ leaders are held _____. We also must work to free them from _____ that keep them from _____ their community.
6. It is our _____ of money that can lead us toward _____, not the money itself. With wealth comes _____ to use it wisely and _____. But the temptation to use it only for one's _____ can be very strong and therein lies the problem.
7. Greed can lead to a lack of _____ for the suffering of other human beings. Sometimes people make money at the _____ of their workers or _____. While some are so _____ on buying the _____ luxuries of life, there are others who cannot afford the _____ (food, shelter, _____, and so on).



8. Technological _____ are allowing us to do things that were not even imagined a hundred, fifty, fifteen, or even five years ago. But just because we have the technical _____ to do something, does that mean we _____ do it? Opening the door to certain possibilities can _____ lead to _____.
9. Unlike God, we humans are _____ in our ability to see the _____ consequences of our actions. We must be extremely _____ that we do not create the _____ for sin. Humans should not be messing with the _____ that God set in place.

Article 42: God's Creation Suffers

1. When God created humans, he told us to have _____ over the Earth and all creation (see Genesis 1:28). *Dominion* is a word that was used in relation to _____ having authority over the _____. It was _____ power to use as they saw fit.
2. Kings were expected to _____ for their people. This is God's commandment to _____ and _____ creation, and it is a _____ that needs more of our _____.
3. Much of our environmental crisis can be blamed on _____. Today, _____ is often purchased in _____ bottles that take about four _____ years to _____ naturally.
4. Most of our plastic trash ends up in _____ or the _____. The Pacific Ocean now holds what has been dubbed as "The Great Pacific _____ Patch." It is more than _____ the size of Texas and mostly consists of _____ items that even the salt water of the _____ cannot _____ down.
5. Ecological disaster and _____ make a situation ripe for social _____, government _____, and _____. Countries that are suffering from _____ and _____ crises become vulnerable to _____ organizations as well.
6. The Earth is neither _____ nor is it an _____ supply source. Instead, it is an _____ dynamic entity that requires our _____ and attention. It is a _____ from God that continues to provide for us, but only as long as we ensure its _____.
7. We are called to be _____ of God's creation. Stewardship is the careful and responsible _____ of someone or something that has been _____ to a person's care. This includes _____ using and caring for God's gift of creation.
8. The Earth has been passed on by _____ stewards for hundreds of thousands of years. Most have taken good care of it, though there have been difficult _____ from which the Earth has had to _____. These moments have brought a variety of _____ upon us.
9. In the past fifty to one _____ years, humanity has painfully pushed Earth to its _____. Its future, and the future of _____, is at stake _____.

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Endnote Cited in Quotation from the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, Second Edition

1. Cf. John Paul II, *Reconciliatio et poenitentia* 16.

