

Reflection Questions

- How does being of service to others strengthen your own recovery and spiritual journey?
- How have others in recovery been of service to you in times of need?
- How are you relying on God today?

Your Support is Needed!

Help individuals and families find hope and healing from addiction by supporting Catholic in Recovery

- Year-end fundraising campaign to expand meetings and initiate new programs for clergy, college campuses, and prison ministries
- Make a difference for a person or family in need
- Help meet our goal and donate today by visiting: www.charity.gofundme.com/o/en/campaign/catholic-in-recovery-expansion

Sunday Mass Readings This Week

1st Reading: Ezekial 34:11-12, 15-17

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 23:1-2, 2-3, 5-6

2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 15:20-26, 28

Gospel: Matthew 25:31-46

Solemnity of Christ the King



By God's grace, we have been restored from a seemingly hopeless state of mind related to family addiction. Helping others who are in need has now become a way of life for us. This week, we celebrate the Solemnity of Christ the King as our liturgical calendar concludes before Advent. We can look with hope for the return of our King as we gaze at the world through the lens of service.

Family members of addicts and alcoholics often have a distorted understanding of what it means to be of service. Our tendency to seek the approval of others can make it tough to maintain healthy boundaries. Just as others extend a welcoming hand to us when we arrive, we must maintain our own fit spiritual condition by sharing the fruit of our recovery with others challenged by a loved one's addiction. Most of us enter recovery thinking our situation is too unique. Honest sharing, humble friendships, and being available to others keeps us balanced and hopeful.

This *service imperative* is consistent with the path of freedom we walk one day a time. As we explore this week's Gospel Reading, ask God to direct your thoughts to who you might help, remembering we can only give what we receive:

Jesus said to his disciples:

*"When the Son of Man comes in his glory,
and all the angels with him,
he will sit upon his glorious throne,
and all the nations will be assembled before him.
And he will separate them one from another,
as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats.
He will place the sheep on his right
and the goats on his left.
Then the king will say to those on his right,
'Come, you who are blessed by my Father.
Inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the
foundation of the world.
For I was hungry and you gave me food,
I was thirsty and you gave me drink,
a stranger and you welcomed me,
naked and you clothed me,
ill and you cared for me,
in prison and you visited me.'"*

Authentic connections with newcomers to recovery provide an opportunity to give back what we've been freely given. We can't make anyone get sober, but we can offer hope to others impacted by the family disease of addiction. Doing so deepens our faith journey and recovery program.

Perhaps you are in a position where you feel you are most in need—*rock bottom*, as it is sometimes referred. Embrace the hand that reaches out to you and embrace your identity as beloved son or daughter of God, with whom He is well pleased. A new life awaits you, one that you may not be able to envision today.

Our fellowship is rooted in the body of Christ embracing the body of Christ. It is a great gift to be in recovery, as few lifestyles offer such genuine opportunities to live under the reign of our Lord. Let us conclude by reflecting on the words of Jesus:

*'Amen, I say to you, whatever you did
for one of the least brothers of mine, you did for
me.'*