



NEW LIFE

CHARISMATIC RENEWAL MINISTRY

Website: www.NewLifeCRM.org

Email: Vince@NewLifeCRM.org
Mark@NewLifeCRM.org

March - April 2007

MEA CULPA, MEA CULPA

(My Fault, My Fault)

By Vince C. Dorazio

In the beginning of the Roman (Latin) Mass there is a prayer called "The Confiteor", which means "I Confess". It is a general prayer of confession for our sins, as we prepare to celebrate the Eucharist. The Confiteor was first said as a private prayer by the celebrant in the sanctuary before Mass began. By the 11th century the celebrant said this prayer at the foot of the altar, at the beginning of the Mass. Later, by the 15th century, it was incorporated into the Mass and said by all in attendance. The prayer is said to acknowledge our faults and ask for God's forgiveness. In the beginning sentence of this prayer are the words (in Latin) "**mea culpa, mea culpa, mea maxima culpa**", (*Through my fault, through my fault, through my most grievous fault*). As we say this prayer, we are acknowledging to God that our sins and

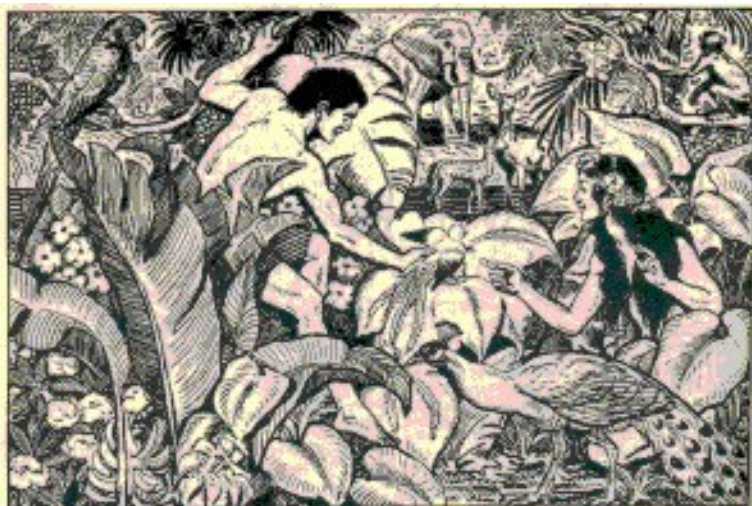
wrongdoings were made through our own faults, and not by someone else.

In today's Mass the words of the prayer may have changed slightly when we say, "**...that I have sinned through my fault in what I have done and what I have failed to do...**"

But, even though the words may vary a bit, the meaning remains the same. We are still acknowledging our faults before God asking for His forgiveness.

I'm sure that almost every person who is a parent can identify with the following story.

One day, a young boy and his little sister were playing in the living room with their new pet puppy, while the mother was in the kitchen preparing lunch for them. Suddenly, she heard a loud crash from the living room. Rushing into the room, there she saw a lamp on the floor broken



Our first parents were perfectly happy in Paradise. If they had not sinned, they would never have died or suffered from sickness and sorrow. When the time came for their leaving the earth, they would have been taken body and soul to Heaven.

The tree of life grew in Paradise. By eating of its fruit Adam and Eve were preserved from death, sickness, and all manner of weakness of the body. All these gifts were lost as a punishment of the sin our first parents committed.

into a hundred pieces. Turning to the young boy, the oldest, she asked, "What happened? Did you break the lamp?" Immediately the young boy replied, "Not me, it was her! It's her fault" pointing a finger at his little sister. The mother turned to the little girl asking "Did you do that?" "No, it was him. He made me do it!" the little girl said pointing to the puppy. Now the mother was faced with a dilemma as to whose fault it was, and who should be punished. So she decided to punish both of them and send them to their rooms for the rest of the day.

Does this story have a familiar ring to you? Maybe it has happened in your home. Neither one of the children took the responsibility and said **'it was my fault'**. Each one was putting the blame on someone else.

If this story sounds like you've heard it before, then you have only to look in the Bible at Genesis 3:9-14. When God asked Adam if he had eaten from the forbidden tree, **"the man replied, 'The woman whom you put here with me --- she gave me the fruit from the tree.'"** (Gen. 3:12) And when God questioned the woman, **"the woman replied, 'The serpent tricked me into it'"** (Gen. 3:14) Then God banished the man and the woman from the Garden of Eden.

As we can see, Adam immediately pointed the blame on the woman that God gave him. He took no responsibility for his fault, and his actions. Likewise, Eve immediately followed with a similar response pointing the blame on the serpent, which God had allowed to be there. It sounds almost as if they were blaming God for their faults. How much

easier it would have been for either Adam or Eve, or both, just to say **"I'm sorry." "It was my fault." "Forgive me God."** All they had to do was to take responsibility for their actions and their faults. If they had done that, then maybe things would be a lot different today. I believe that God would have forgiven them immediately, and sin would not have entered the world.

Throughout the ages, many people have found it easier to put the blame on someone else rather than taking the responsibility for their own faults and actions. For instance, we have all heard of some people who have mentioned that they were not responsible for their actions by saying, **"The Devil made me do it."** Maybe this saying came from Genesis 3:14 when Eve said, **"The serpent tricked me."** This seems like an easy out for not being accountable for your faults. But it didn't work for Eve, and I don't think it will work for anyone today.

We have to be accountable for our sins and our faults. And we must also be ready to acknowledge our faults before God. So the next time you go to church say the Confiteor Prayer before the Mass begins, Bring to mind your faults from the previous week and ask for God's forgiveness. Then you will be ready to receive the Eucharist and be on right terms with God! **ALLELULIA!**

CONFITEOR

I confess to you Almighty God that I sinned through my own fault in what I have done and what I have failed to do, and I ask Blessed Mary ever Virgin, all the Angels and Saints, and you my brothers and sisters to pray for me to the Lord our God. Amen.



NEW LIFE RENEWAL

The weekly prayer meetings are the heartbeat of the Charismatic Renewal. It is here that we can worship and praise God as He intended. Together, as the Body of Christ, we are able to hear the word God has for us as born-again Christians. Jesus said, ***"Where two or three are gathered together in My Name, there I am in their midst."*** (Matthew 18:20)

Sometimes, we are physically exhausted from all the things in which we are involved. Sometimes our jobs, civic duties, church and family responsibilities make demands on us that tire us out, and we do not have time to do anything else.

If you haven't been to a prayer meeting in recent years, then it's time for you to return, and commit yourself to be a regular participant. We would welcome you to come and share a song of praise and a time of worship to our Lord Jesus! Come and share a word from the Scriptures or maybe a need for personal prayer. Our prayer meetings are:

THURSDAYS – 7:30 PM

**St Albert's Catholic Church
East 29th St. & 32nd Ave. So. Mpls.
Handicap Accessible**

**For more information Call:
Mark Bjorkstrand
612-282-9896**

**COME JOIN US,
WE WANT TO SEE YOU AGAIN!**

St Paul reminds us, *"DO NOT ABSENT YOURSELVES FROM THE ASSEMBLY, AS SOME DO, BUT ENCOURAGE ONE ANOTHER."*
(Hebrews 10:25)

We'll look for you this Thursday and we'll keep the light on for you!
SEE YOU SOON!

NEED PRAYER?

If you or someone you know is in need of personal prayer, we would like to include your needs to our Prayer Requests.

Please pray for all those in need.

Below is a Prayer Request Form. Please cut it out, fill in your request and mail it to us. We will add your request to our prayer list.

| PRAYER REQUEST | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| PLEASE PRINT | |
| Please pray for the following person. | |
| Name: | _____ |
| Prayer Need(s): | _____ _____ |
| Requested by: | _____ |
| Address: | _____ _____ |
| Email: | _____ |
| Return To: | NEW LIFE CRM 6253 Penn Avenue South Richfield, MN. 55423 |
| Email: | Vince@NewLifeCRM.org Or Mark@NewLifeCRM.org |

The primary purpose of this newsletter is to proclaim that JESUS CHRIST IS LORD!



NEW LIFE CRM
6253 Penn Avenue South
Richfield, MN. 55423
612-243-9411

Visit our website at:

www.NewLifeCRM.org

EMAIL: Vince Dorazio

Vince@NewLifeCRM.org

Mark Bjorkstrand

Mark@NewLifeCRM.org

DONATIONS

New Life Renewal is a faith publication and is supported by your **FREE WILL** contributions. Your tax-deductible donations are greatly appreciated. Thank You.

PLEASE PRINT:

Name _____

Address _____

City/State _____

Zip _____ Phone _____

- I am enclosing a tax-deductible gift to help support **NEW LIFE MINISTRY**.
- I would like to receive **NEW LIFE**.
- This is a change of address.

RETURN TO:

NEW LIFE RENEWAL MINISTRY
6253 Penn Avenue South
Richfield, MN. 55423
612-243-9411

CHARISMATIC PRAYER MEETINGS

THURSDAYS 7:30 PM

St Albert's Catholic Church
29th Street & 32nd Ave. South
Minneapolis, MN.
(1 Block North of E. Lake St.)

**Call ahead for Handicap
Accessibility
612-282-9896**