

**The Imitation of Christ**  
**(6<sup>h</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time, Year B)**

**1 Corinthians 10:31-11:1—The Imitation of Paul**

<sup>31</sup> So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God. <sup>32</sup> *Give no offense to Jews or to Greeks or to the church of God,* <sup>33</sup> just as *I try to please all men in everything I do, not seeking my own advantage, but that of many, that they may be saved.*

<sup>1</sup> *Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ.* (1 Corinthians 10:31-11:1)

1. Context: dispute over eating food in the pagan markets (cf. 1 Cor 10:23-30)

2. Imitation of Christ: be “imitators” (Greek *mimētēs*) of Paul (1 Cor 11:1; cf. 1 Cor 4:16)

Life of Jesus

1. Heals Peter’s mother-in-law sick with “high fever”

(Luke 4:38)

2. “Laid his hands” on the sick

(Luke 4:40)

3. Healed many with “diseases” in Galilee

(Luke 4:40)

4. Brought before Sanhedrin and struck

(Luke 22:54-71)

5. Accused before the Procurator Pontius Pilate

(Luke 23:1-12)

Life of Paul

1. Heals Publius’ father sick with “fever and dysentery”

(Acts 28:8)

2. Laid “his hands” on the sick man

(Acts 28:8)

3. Healed many with “diseases” in Malta

(Acts 28:9)

4. Brought before Sanhedrin and struck

(Acts 22:2-10)

5. Accused before the Procurator Antonius Felix

(Acts 24:1-23)

**The Living Tradition**

Catechism: Christ enables us *to live in him* all that he himself lived, and *he lives it in us*.

“By his Incarnation, he, the Son of God, has in a certain way united himself with each man.” We are called only to become one with him, for he enables us as the members of his Body to share in what he lived for us in his flesh as our model: “*We must continue to accomplish in ourselves the stages of Jesus’ life and his mysteries* and often to beg him to perfect and realize them in us and in his whole Church.... For it is the plan of the Son of God to make us and the whole Church partake in his mysteries and to extend them to and continue them in us and in his whole Church. *This is his plan for fulfilling his mysteries in us.*” (CCC 521, quoting St. John Eudes [emphasis added])

Pope Francis: At its core, *holiness is experiencing*, in union with Christ, *the mysteries of his life*. (Pope Francis, Apostolic Exhortation *Gaudete ex Exultate* no. 20)

St. John Gabriel Perboyre:

O my Divine Saviour,  
Transform me into Yourself.  
May my hands be the hands of Jesus.  
Grant that every faculty of my body  
May serve only to glorify You.  
Above all,  
Transform my soul and all its powers  
So that my memory, will and affection  
May be the memory, will and affections  
Of Jesus.  
I pray You  
To destroy in me  
All that is not of You.  
Grant that I may live  
But in You, by You and for You,  
So that I may truly say,  
With St. Paul,  
“I live - now not I -  
But Christ lives in me”.

### Questions for Discussion and Reflection (6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time, Year B)

1. How can Paul be so seemingly audacious to command the Corinthians to “imitate” him, even as he “imitates” Christ? (1 Cor 11:1) How can we live out this inspired command in our own live?

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### For Further Reading

1. St. Thomas Aquinas, *Commentary on the Letters of Saint Paul to the Corinthians* (trans. F. R. Larcher, O.P.; eds. J. Mortensen and E. Alarcón; Lander, WY: Aquinas Institute, 2012).
2. Gerald Bray, ed. *1-2 Corinthians* (Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture, New Testament VI; Downers Grove, IL.: IVP, 1999).
3. George T. Montague, SM, *First Corinthians* (Catholic Commentary on Sacred Scripture; Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2010).