

Death Came through Sin **(12th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A)**

Romans 5:12-15—Death Came into the World

¹² Therefore as *sin came into the world through one man and death through sin*, and so *death spread to all men because all men sinned*—¹³ sin indeed was in the world before the law was given, but sin is not counted where there is no law. ¹⁴ *Yet death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sins were not like the transgression of Adam, who was a type of the one who was to come.* ¹⁵ But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if many died through one man's trespass, much more have the grace of God and the free gift in the grace of that one man Jesus Christ abounded for many. (Romans 5:12-15)

1. "**Sin**" (Greek *hamartia*): came into the "world" through "one man" (Rom 5:12)
3. **Death**: (Greek *thanatos*) comes "into the world" through "sin" (Rom 5:12)
4. **Adam**: a "type" (Greek *typos*) of the "one who was to come" (= Jesus) (Rom 5:14)

One Man (=Adam)

trespass

brings death

condemnation

disobedience

makes many sinners

(Greek *hamartoloi*)

One Man (=Jesus Christ)

free gift (of grace)

brings life

justification/acquittal

obedience

makes many righteous

(Greek *dikaioi*)

The Catechism on the Fall and the Coming of Death

Death is a consequence of sin. The Church's Magisterium, as authentic interpreter of the affirmations of Scripture and Tradition, teaches that *death entered the world on account of man's sin*. Even though man's nature is mortal, God had destined him not to die. Death was therefore contrary to the plans of God the Creator and entered the world as a consequence of sin. "*Bodily death, from which man would have been immune had he not sinned*" is thus "*the last enemy*" of man left to be conquered. (CCC 1008)

The doctrine of original sin is, so to speak, the "reverse side" of the Good News that Jesus is the Savior of all men, that all need salvation, and that salvation is offered to all through Christ. The Church, which has the mind of Christ, knows very well that *we cannot tamper with the revelation of original sin without undermining the mystery of Christ.* (CCC 389)

Questions for Discussion and Reflection (12th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A)

1. What does the Catechism teach about the origin of human death in the world?

2. How is the Fall of Adam the “reverse side” of the Good News?

For Further Reading

1. St. Thomas Aquinas, *Commentary on the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans* (trans. F. R. Larcher, O.P.; eds. J. Mortensen and E. Alarcón; Lander, WY: Aquinas Institute, 2012).
2. John Chrysostom, *Homilies on the Acts of the Apostles and the Epistle to the Romans*, Nicene and Post-Nicene Fathers, Volume 11 (ed. Philip Schaff; repr.; Peabody, Mass.: Hendrickson, 1994).