

Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time – Year A

*A Canaanite woman of [the district of Tyre and Sidon] came and called out, “Have pity on me, Lord, Son of David! My daughter is tormented by a demon” (Matthew 15:22).*

Scripture and the Teaching of the Church attest to the existence and activity of angelic beings. The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* states: “The existence of the spiritual, non-corporeal beings that Sacred Scripture usually calls “angels” is a truth of faith. The witness of Scripture is as clear as the unanimity of Tradition” (CCC, 328).

Scripture describes the chief demonic spirit under a number of names: Satan, the Devil, Prince of this World, the Father of Lies, the Tempter. Other fallen angelic beings are called evil spirits, demons, or unclean spirits. These demonic spirits work towards the spiritual destruction of human beings. Again, the *Catechism* teaches: “*Behind the disobedient choice of our first parents lurks a seductive voice, opposed to God, which makes them fall into death out of envy. Scripture and the Church’s Tradition see in this being a fallen angel, called ‘Satan’ or the ‘Devil’*” (CCC, 391).

The coming of Jesus as Savior and Redeemer revealed the power of God against the powers of darkness. Christ resisted the temptations in the wilderness. He showed authority over demons. He freed those oppressed by evil spirits. His death on the cross once and for all established the Kingdom of God as the source of freedom and salvation.

The witness of the early Church and the ministry of the Church in history shows that the power received from Christ has been effectively invoked and the Church confidently prays *in the name of Jesus* for deliverance from the Evil One.

A very powerful litany to pray, then, is the Litany of the Holy Name of Jesus, which our parish prays every Monday and Wednesday evening during Adoration. In it, we ask the gift of his most divine love, that we may ever love him with our whole heart, in word and deed, and never cease praising him who is the Son of God, Jesus Christ.

Father Frei