

with Father Dave Pinto

Third Sunday of Lent

Ego to Soul: Do I Have Too?

This week the focus is on the ‘O’ in ECORSA. Here we are looking at the objections that our soul, often through our ego offers up for not engaging in the commission or task of the calling, first revealed in the encounter with God, but in finding and offering reason for not accepting the mission of the calling. The first task given to Moses was to take off his shoes and kneel before God. He was then commissioned to go bring God’s people home, and now Moses offers reasons, five in all, why he should not be given this task—he is objecting. Our soul encountered God, and from that encounter it received a commission to communicate with God, through prayer. This communication comes in the prayerful union of soul and ego; and the ego is now objecting to this task: which is to find the means by which the soul can communicate with God.

The objections of the ego are strong, and only through the different prayer techniques, is the ego brought into an ordered existence, resulting from its realized union with the soul. As we saw last week: a good objective for Lent is to seek ways of bringing our subjective ego (our identity in the space-time continuum) into union with our objective soul—in which the soul is allowed to freely direct our ego.

How do we know when our ego is objecting to be led by our soul? Sin is the best indication that the ego refuses the guidance of the soul. Scripture holds that sin even reaches into our Inner Room where our heart is growing in its desert sands. We have a good idea sin has invaded our heart when we:

**think of our state of wrongdoing as not being so bad, not so dire;

**congratulate ourselves on being ‘good people;’

**resist taking ownership of our own sins—distancing ourselves from them;

**think “That isn’t really who I am.;

**think “It’s not such a big deal;”

**think “I did not hurt anyone;”

**say “I did not mean anything by it;”

**instead of admitting “I committed a sin, “ we choose to confess instead—“I made a mistake.”

How do we know when our soul is leading our ego, and the commission of or call is accepted in a unified soul/ego partnership? When our will and intellect, working in union seek to freely choose the objective good. The process by which we train our conscious to know the good to choose is fivefold:

****Pray**, dare to enter the desert of your Inner Room;

****Discern**, the pros and cons of the choice; by

****Evaluation** involving the Gospel and Sacred Tradition of the Catholic Church;

****Navigate**, seeking the best choice moving to a place of inner peace;

****Persevere**, finish what you have been given or taken on—if you cannot see the next step, maybe you are not there yet (Carry on, Carrying on).

The heart is the place in the desert of our Inner Room, where the soul and the ego come together, either in union of purpose, ego being led by soul; or, of adversarial posture where ego refuses to be virtue driven. Does the ego have to listen to the soul? No, but then damnation becomes possible. Yes, then what is given is what the Lord gave to Ezekiel (36:26-27)

A new heart will I give you, and a new spirit I will put within you; and I will take out of your flesh the heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my spirit within you and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to observe my ordinances.