



WEEKLY LETTER FROM MONSIGNOR KEN

Here's an interesting Biblical trivia quiz. Who do you think is the most tragic figure in the Old Testament? There is actually no one answer. Many candidates could qualify. My nomination is Solomon. I realize that he might seem an unlikely choice. After all, isn't he noted for his wisdom? We just read about that two weeks ago when God invited him to ask for whatever he wanted. Instead of all the things he might have chosen, he asked for wisdom. In addition, he was granted the honor to be the one to build the great Temple. How then can he be a tragic figure? Remember what happened? In spite of all of that, he had many wives and concubines, and they turned his heart away from the Lord. He did not remain faithful to the covenant. He even built pagan altars and sacrificed to false gods. This he did even after being warned by God: "if ever you and your descendants turn from following Me, fail to keep my commandments and statutes which I set before you, and proceed to serve other gods and bow down to them. I will cut off Israel from the land I gave them and repudiate the house I have consecrated for my name." (1 Kings 9:6-7a) Despite the many blessings he received, he allowed himself to be influenced by his many mistresses.

Solomon, while most noted for his wisdom, serves as a sobering reminder to never take for granted our blessings and to carefully guard our gift of faith. In reality, there are many temptations to literally take us away from loving, living and practicing our Catholic faith. When in school, summer was a time for vacation which should be enjoyed, but there has always been the tradition of doing summer reading. Often, children are given a list, some required, and others voluntarily chosen. I challenge you to adopt that practice to strengthen your faith and ward off all those distractions and invitations to abandon God's covenant with us. Read the Bible or choose from literally countless books on spirituality and the Faith. You can even take advantage of FORMED for which you can sign up for free. You have a month left to finish your summer reading! When the summer season ends, let us all leave it behind as better, stronger, and more faithful Catholics!

"The Lord became angry with Solomon, because his heart turned away from the Lord, the God of Israel, who had appeared to him twice and commanded him not to do this very thing, not to follow other gods. But he did not observe what the Lord commanded." (1 Kings 11:9-10)