

William Henry "Bill" Cosby, Jr. was born July 12, 1937. He is a famous comedian, actor, author, television producer, educator, musician activist, and stand-up performer.

He's been a spokesman on commercials for Jell-O, Kodak film, Ford, Texas Instruments, and Coca-Cola.

In 1976, Cosby earned a Doctor of Education degree from the University of Massachusetts. For his doctoral research, he wrote a dissertation entitled, "An Integration of the Visual Media Via 'Fat Albert And The Cosby Kids' Into the Elementary School Curriculum as a Teaching Aid and Vehicle to Achieve Increased Learning".

So, he's not just funny and rich. He's smart.

In 1983, Bill Cosby released the concert video titled "Himself." On this there are two skits, that I will (with apologies to 'Himself') make an effort to explain.

The first skit is:

Bill Cosby: [describing children with brain damage] You come into the room with a Coca-Cola, you set it down, you go to get a newspaper. Child comes walking in, grabs the drink, starts to... You say, "Give me that! Didn't I just tell you not to drink it?" The child says, "Uh-huh." You say, "What did I just say?" [mimicking child]

Bill Cosby: "You said for to not for to drink your drink." [normal voice]

Bill Cosby: "So every time I tell you that, don't I? I say, 'When I have a drink, don't you drink it.' Don't I say that?" "Uh-huh." "Now tell me what I said." "You said for to not for to drink your drink." "That's right!" So you put it down, you go to get the paper, the child picks it up again, and quickly starts to drink it! You say, "Gimme that! Didn't I just tell you?" He says, "Uh-huh!" "Well, why did you do it?" "I don't know!" Well, that's brain damage!

And the second skit is:

Bill Cosby: [about a talk with his son] So I looked at him. And I noticed that from here... [pointing to one side of his head]

Bill Cosby: ...all the way around to here... [pointing to the other side]

Bill Cosby: ...there was no hair. I said, "Son?" Called him "son". "What... happened to your hair?" He said, "I don't know." I said, "Son, take your hand and put it on top of your head and tell me what you feel." He said, "There's no hair." I said, "Right! Now, tell Dad what happened to your hair." He said, "I don't know." I said, "Son, was your head with you all day today?" He said, "Uh-huh." I said, "Was this the hair you wanted?" He said, "Uh-huh." I said, "A reverse Mohawk?" He said, "Uh-huh." I said, "Did you cut your hair off?" He said, "Uh-huh." I said, "Well, why didn't you tell me that in the beginning?" He said, "I don't know!"

In today's first reading, we hear the about the fall of humanity in the story from the Book of Genesis.

And somehow I can hear God telling the story of the fall of humanity in a Bill Cosby voice, and imitating Adam's lame excuses in the whiny voice he uses to explain the stupid things his kids did.

What is up with that?

I have an important thing to tell you.

SIN MAKES YOU STUPID.

Really. It does.

If you think that somehow cutting yourself off from God through disobedience to the Will of Almighty God is a good thing ... well, that's just stupid.

And if someone told you somewhere along the way that sins were OK. Or that there weren't really any sins. Or the only sin was murder, and so long as you didn't have too many bodies buried in the basement ... well, that's just stupid ... and they're stupid for telling you that.

The Father's of the Church called the Sacrament of Baptism the Sacrament of Enlightenment – because in Baptism, our sins were washed away and we were infused with the supernatural graces that flow from all seven of the Sacraments.

However ... somehow ... somewhere ... sometime ... along the way from the day of our Baptism to NOW ... I'm pretty sure that we've sinned. And the more we sin, the stupider we get.

Thanks be to God ... that in His generosity, he's given us a means for restoring ourselves BACK to our Baptismal purity. And that is the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Today we celebrate how Our Lady, through a special grace of God, was conceived without Original sin, and was preserved from sin throughout her life. In a similar way, we need to celebrate how we, too, have been preserved from original sin – THROUGH BAPTISM – and have been given the means to preserve ourselves from sin – THROUGH CONFESSION – throughout our lives.

As we approach this altar to receive the Sacred Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus Christ, let us make a FIRM PURPOSE OF AMENDMENT – to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation – CONFESSION – sometime in the next couple of days ... or weeks ... or months ...

But remember – SIN MAKES YOU STUPID. So, tap into the graces that are offered for your redemption. Reclaim your Baptismal purity – the enlightenment – THE LIGHT OF CHRIST ... by the means of the Sacraments offered to you.

For we are the sons and daughters of God the Father, redeemed in the Precious Blood of Jesus Christ, and filled with the graces of the Holy Spirit.