

Amnesia seems to be a popular movie and television plot device. Somebody gets hit in the head and they can't remember who they are ... they get hit in the head again, and amazingly they remember everything. It gets over-used so much that it reaches the point of being almost ridiculous when it does show up in soap operas and situation comedies.

Sometimes in the story line the amnesia is real, other times the person is faking so that they can hide something or avoid punishment.

In fact, amnesia as portrayed in movies is reportedly much less common. Of course, as we get older, we tend to forget things more easily.

Despite Hollywood's playful use of amnesia, in reality, forgetting who you are is a very serious thing, oftentimes associated with some very serious illnesses.

In the spiritual life, there is also a sort of amnesia which appears to be more prevalent.

Forgetting one's place before almighty God.

In this type of amnesia, people seem to forget who they are by virtue of their Baptism. That is, they forget that they are a daughter or son of God.

In more advanced cases, people even seem to forget who God is, or at least they act as though they've forgotten that He exists.

And in the worst situations, people forget who they are, and at the same time forget who God is; and end up acting as though they are God.

Spiritual amnesia comes from a variety of sources.

The secular culture presses us to "be somebody" ... and if we're insecure about who we are, we start to pretend that we're someone we really aren't.

Sin and the guilt that comes from sinning can push us into pretending that God doesn't exist ... and so if there's no God, then there can't really be anything wrong with the sinful action.

The cure for this sort of spiritual amnesia begins with humility.

In the First Reading, the writer of Sirach admonishes us to:

conduct [our] affairs with humility ...

and to

Humble [ourselves] the more, the greater [we] are ...

In the Gospel, Jesus tells the parable of the guests at the banquet; ending it with:

*For every one who exalts himself will be humbled,
but the one who humbles himself will be exalted.*

If we live our lives in humility ... and recognize that God is God and we are not ... and that we are the beloved children of God ... we can find great peace because we will be living within the Will of God ... according to God's plan for us.

On the other hand, when we cast aside humility, and in that action forget who we are ... we often find ourselves in situations where it seems that we are tossed about ... and sometimes it feels as if we're being hit with a two-by-four.

In those situations, it's almost as if we're living in a TV show ... and someone is trying to hit us in the head to try to cure our spiritual amnesia with a blow to the head.

In the Letter to the Hebrews, we are given an image of what we are called to and what we aren't called to ...

True humility ... knowing who we are in relationship to God and Jesus Christ ... that's not living in fear and begging God not to overwhelm us.

Rather, it is knowing that our true home is in "*the heavenly Jerusalem*" ... "*the city of the living God*" surrounded by "*countless angels in festal gathering*" and being among "*the assembly of the firstborn enrolled in heaven*" with "*the spirits of the just made perfect.*"

And while God remains "*the judge of all,*" we can remain confident that Jesus Christ is our mediator ... "*the mediator of a new covenant.*"

So long as we can remember who we are ... and Who God is ... and Who Jesus Christ is.

Today as we approach this altar to receive the Sacred Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus Christ, let us pray for a greater clarity of WHO WE ARE in God's plan of things. Let us beg to grow in TRUE HUMILITY ... as the beloved children of God the Father, redeemed in Jesus Christ, and filled with the grace and power of the Holy Spirit.