

Letter of Apostle Paul to the Corinthians and a Letter to the Magnesians  
by St. Ignatius of Antioch  
Peggy Brechtel – July 22, 2018

Paul in this letter to the people of Corinth begins by praising God. We would do well to follow his example! He calls him the Father of mercies, and the God of all consolation!

How comforting to the people (and to us) to hear of such a God! And Paul says that because God comforts him in his afflictions, this allows him to comfort others who are in trouble with the same consolation he has received from God. In listening to the stories of others we can always offer more genuine consolations when their afflictions are similar to those we have experienced.

Paul says that he has shared much in the suffering of Christ, and says this is for the encouragement and salvation for those to whom he writes.

In all of Paul's writings can be found the theme of the three theological virtues we receive in Baptism.

From the beginning of a letter to the Magnesians by Saint Ignatius of Antioch, bishop and martyr

Ignatius tells the people he is delighted to hear of their love for God, so well-ordered and devout. He writes them while still in chains, singing the praises of the churches, and prays that they be united with the flesh and the spirit of Jesus Christ; a union in faith and love, to which nothing must be preferred.

Later, in his writings he speaks about a young bishop, Damas, and how the deacon Zotion, is obedient to him. The deacon and presbyters are not taking advantage of his youthful condition but deferring to him with the prudence which comes from God.

Obedience to those assigned over us and to the will of God are paramount.

The last sentence also speaks to the call in our baptism. "Unless we are ready through his power to die in the likeness of his passion, his life is not in us."

It would appear that the theological virtues of fallen away Catholics are lying dormant in their souls and only need to be reawakened through the New Evangelization.