

## DEAR DEACON BULLETIN INSERT

### ❖ Dear Deacon Jim,

*A question concerning Hell: Who goes to Hell if God forgives our sins?*

### ❖ Response

Yes, in His infinite mercy God forgives the sins of those who **are willing** turn to Him in repentance asking for forgiveness in the Sacrament of Reconciliation by making perfect contrition and restoring sacramental grace.

However, those who knowingly and willingly commit and die in the state of mortal sin and are unrepentant in this life, deprive themselves forever of entering the full, heavenly presence of God. Recall that God prepared hell for Lucifer and the other bad angels after they rebelled against the dominion of the will of God, but a *sinful person will find himself there if he or she does not obey God (Matthew 25:41).*

So, while one may be eternally condemned by a just God, they have willingly cast themselves by *their own free choice* into everlasting damnation and remain separated from God.

As human beings, we all possess the possibility of going to Hell, but also have the possibility and potential to go to Heaven by God's grace. (CCC #1035)

*Deacon Jim*