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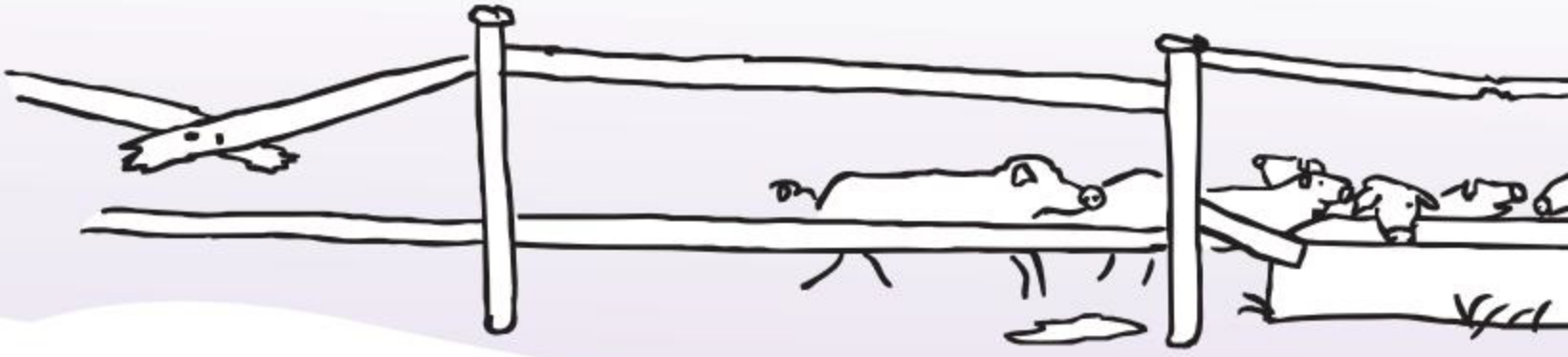
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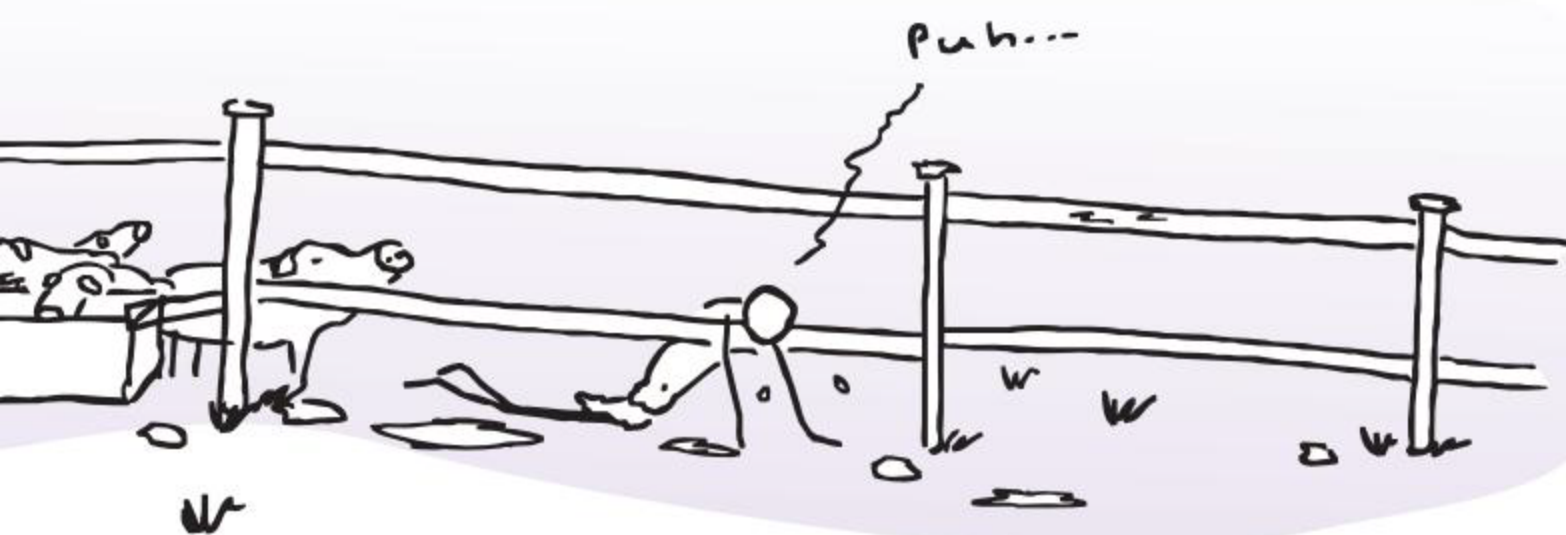


What's God like? Simply unbelievable!

Yes, I often think about this myself. Hey, God, how did I deserve the fact that you're just so interested in me?! You know what I'm like! I really don't have many good things to show for myself.

But clearly that doesn't really interest God. His love is steadfast and what does that make me do? I surrender. I come back like the prodigal son in the Gospel. Sometimes I just can't believe it when our Father in heaven stretches out his arms yet again and welcomes me with joy. I stammer like the prodigal son: "Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son!" (Lk 15:21).

I just can't believe how God reacts to me, the repentant sinner. Normally you would think, "That's the end of me. His accusing look is going to destroy me! Shouldn't he really say something like 'Stop it! Get out of my sight! I don't want to *ever, ever, ever*



see you again!” That’s exactly what God doesn’t do! He is blissfully happy that I have found my way back to him and he has prepared a feast for me. The best of everything!



” Many people say, “I’ve done so many bad things that God couldn’t possibly forgive me.” This is blasphemy. It means you are putting limits on God’s mercy which has no limits. His mercy is boundless. Nothing offends our dear Lord more than you doubting his mercy.

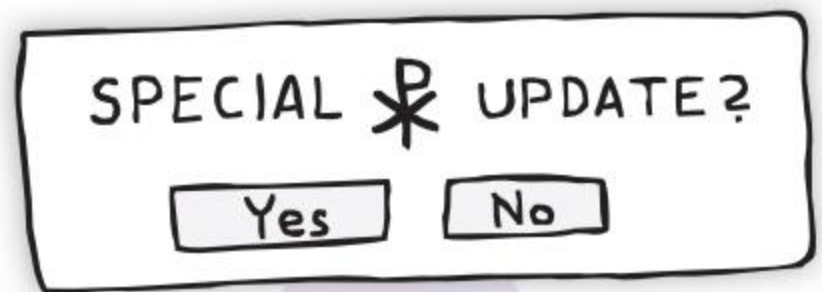
JEAN MARIE VIANNEY
(CURE D’ARS)

What is Confession?

+ Confession is like performing a **regular**

Update

on my life. If I miss the update, then all my software is out-of-date. My laptop is unprotected and exposed to viruses and trojan attacks.



+ Confession is like **taking a car for**

Service.

At least every 30,000 km the car needs to go to the garage. Otherwise it will stop working and the engine will break down. At least once a year – preferably before Easter – every Catholic should go to confession.

+ Confession is like **taking a**

Shower

after a strenuous walk. You come home – dead-tired. The dust from the streets sticks to your skin. You smell and there’s no way you can approach others in this state but after a shower you feel like a new person. Your skin can breathe again. You are alive again. You put on fresh clothes.



+ Confession is like the **happy relief after getting**

Back on track.

When you sin, it is like driving in the wrong lane with 160 things on your mind. If you want to avoid a crash, you only have one chance. Turn the car around and drive in the opposite direction!

Perhaps you can think of other comparisons?

- ! You probably want to know exactly
- what is not going well (or what is going completely wrong) in your life? Work carefully through the following pages. It’s all about examining your conscience.