

# INFINITELY LOVED BY GOD

Bishop Nelson Perez

**F**rom time to time, we all know what it feels like to lose keys, jewelry, money, and the feelings of annoyance that goes with this in retracing our steps, in blaming ourselves or others, in time wasted in trying to find the items; the well-known feeling of loss.

From time to time we've also known the feeling of spiritual loss; the feeling that an encounter with Jesus would be impossible. But with God, anything is possible. Jesus is always there to find us as he found the lost sheep; always waiting for us to reach out and encounter him.

Through the process of prayer and contemplation, we can find the closeness to God we once had. We can examine our conscience retracing our steps to determine where we went astray, search our souls compassionately and find the courage to reach out lovingly for Jesus, where we will find him there, waiting for us.

Pope Francis tells us "Do not be afraid of the Sacrament of Confession, for there we will encounter Jesus." Somewhere in our hearts we know from past experience how good it feels to come back to him when we are lost. Jesus calls us to "Rejoice with me for I have found my sheep that was lost. Just so, I tell you there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous



persons who need no repentance." It is in our faith community, we have an opportunity to rejoice and celebrate our encounters with Jesus through the Sacrament of Confession.

On Wednesday, March 20, 2019 every church in the diocese will be open from 5 – 8 pm for *An Evening of Confession*. You are invited to come and encounter Jesus through this Sacrament. Let us also encourage each other to come together to celebrate. Perhaps we can think of someone to accompany us, someone who is lost, by meeting them where they are at and bringing them to a place of love, healing and transformation as well. We are all missionary disciples on our pilgrimage of life. God doesn't want any of us to feel lost. He wants us to feel infinitely loved and intimately connected so we may be sent to joyfully proclaim God's love and mercy to the world!



"The joy of God is the joy of forgiveness." – Pope Francis

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20, 2019 | 5:00 – 8:00 PM | [WWW.WELCOMECATHOLICS.COM](http://WWW.WELCOMECATHOLICS.COM)