



# Sons of Saint Joseph <sup>tm</sup>

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## SOSJ -2 – SPIRITUAL WORKS OF MERCY Instructing the Ignorant Saturday, August 12, 2023

### **Ephesians 4: 17-24**

So I declare and testify in the Lord that you must no longer live as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their minds; darkened in understanding, alienated from the life of God because of their ignorance, because of their hardness of heart, they have become callous and have handed themselves over to licentiousness for the practice of every kind of impurity to excess. That is not how you learned Christ, assuming that you have heard of him and were taught in him, as truth is in Jesus, that you should put away the old self of your former way of life, corrupted through deceitful desires, and be renewed in the spirit of your minds, and put on\* the new self, created in God's way in righteousness and holiness of truth.

### **Questions**

1. What does it mean to instruct the ignorant; who is ignorant? If the church says even those who are outside the church could make it to heaven, why try to convince them to become Catholic?
2. If I sense someone at work is ignorant of Christ and in need of instruction, what are good strategies to approach him with? How do I avoid making him hostile or more hostile to the faith that so contradicts the world?
3. How do we help teens understand that it is a sign of strength to not only admit ignorance of Christ, but to actively seek to end it? What are ways in which to help them defend their faith in public school?
4. If brilliant intellectuals like Sts. Thomas Aquinas and Augustine are saints yet so is the very modestly educated Maria Goretti, then how do we describe the nature of overcoming ignorance? What is the worst ignorance we face today in Church?