

# The Temptation To Never Choose

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## FIRST SUNDAY

**Gn. 2:7-9, 3:1-7**

**Psalms 51**

**Rm. 5:12-19**

**Mt. 4:1-11**

One of the reasons temptation has “lost its bite” and has become, from time to time, an advertising device or a variable in satanistic psychology is that this experience has been linked to a series of secondary situations (food, sex, vainglory...) instead of bringing it back to the decisive issue, namely: the question of one’s identity. That is to say: the testing of whatever it is that constitutes the deepest core of our being so as to see whether or not we are being faithful to it.

This year, the Gospel that opens the Lenten season helps us refocus on temptation as an essential moment for discovering who we really are. Until a person is tempted, he/she is neither fish nor fowl. It is when we are put to the test that we discover who we are and who we want to become. This is completely different from the gold-edged indifference—so widespread today—that makes it seem as if everything is possible and within hand’s reach; an indifference that tolerates everything because, when it comes down to it, no one cares anyway. We avoid conflict and reduce ourselves to a state of non-life because it is struggle that brings to the fore who we are, what we want and the things to which we want to dedicate our energy. Instead, we try to squelch all forms of conflict as soon as they arise.

Only by accepting the challenges of life (at times making a virtue of necessity) can we rediscover a zest and even a relish for them. For example: to recognize and not ignore or suppress the limitations and ties linked to our human nature. Again: to avoid bowing down in homage to another person precisely so as to remain upright and consistent with our convictions, because it is not true that we can have everything. And finally, to refrain from pinning God’s shoulders to the wall because he doesn’t always answer our questions, since a clear answer to everything is not always possible. In the end, faith means entrusting oneself silently to him.

*Don Domenico Pompili*

### A Certain Form of Contemporary “Dialogue”

*It involves  
the idle pondering  
of constantly-shifting  
thoughts...  
Or a spiderweb of subjects  
that dangle  
in space.*

*It involves greedily  
gulping down  
fog and smoke.  
Searchers without ideals,  
adventurers without heroism,  
spiritual eunuchs.*

*I’m tired  
of a lot of words  
without ideas.  
I’m tired  
of a lot of ideas  
without substance.*

(p. M. Rosin, sj, 1966)