

## A Reflection on Mirrors

Mull the matter of mirrors. They can reveal how gorgeous you are or that you have an ambitious zit attempting to establish a colony on your cheek.

Less personal, contemplate those convex mirrors where two corridors meet at right angles. They help prevent close and unintended physical contact— unless while checking the 90 degree environment you miss what's in front of you.

Finally, ponder those automotive rearview mirrors that snag people as they walk next to cars in the parking lot. Their main purpose, of course, is to forestall sideswiping a car next to you— unless you forget the limitations spelled out on the mirror's surface.

One could conclude that, with a little stretch of the theme, mirrors can work at cross purposes. And that could be construed as unfair to mirrors.

Mirrors have a spiritual purpose—one that has nothing to do with breaking one. The catechism teaches that God's Law works like a mirror. It reveals a person blemished with sin. Good thing, too! But why?

If you didn't spot your sins, how would you know that you're a sinner? Using the zit analogy (forgive me), how could you treat your flawed face if you didn't know the flaw was there? God's law may be uncomfortable to contemplate, but its consequences don't go away by ignoring it or denying that it's there. But don't despair. Don't deny it. Don't scrub yourself with phony remedies. This calls for repentance!

God accepts your repentance for Jesus' sake. Then He sends the Holy Spirit, who enlivens the faith He gave you at your baptism—a faith that will repeatedly bring you back to repentance, washing you in forgiveness and renewal.

Now don't stop glancing in the mirror. Like a driver, you need to see what's behind and alongside you. It may even be closer than it appears. Look:

"Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever" (Ps. 23:6).

**Read on... [2 Corinthians 7](#).**

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