

A	<p><u>“Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening”</u></p> <p>(Introduction of related scriptural passages)</p>	<p>1Sam 3:9</p> <p>Gen 20-21</p>
B	<p><u>Abraham’s Journey to Gerar</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The danger and challenges experienced by Abraham and the need to have Sarah pretending to be his sister have been recorded three times in Gen 12:10-13 (J), 20: 1-18(E), and 26:1-11 (J). These narratives highlight Abraham’s special grace of intercession. In addition, all narratives point to the sin and consequences of coveting the wife of one’s neighbour; all sinners are afraid of God’s punishment. ▪ The Torah, including Genesis, came from an oral tradition before being recorded in written form. E and J, both Israelite scholars who wrote during the 8 and 9 BC, included themes from the same oral tradition; however, it is possible that they might have changed the stories with different times, people and location. However, most scholars believed that these were different narratives and not repetition. ▪ From the perspective of literary criticism, the historicity of the narrative is not as important; rather, the Holy Spirit is guiding the readers to understand the theology hidden within the literary world created by seemingly historical events. ▪ What causes Abraham to repeat his mistake (Gen 12:10-13 & 20:1-8)? This shows that people often ignore their own sins to please themselves rather than God. This shows the great power of sin’s temptation! ▪ God swiftly made Abimelech sick so that he could not be with Sarai and God’s original plan (Abraham will bore a son with Sarai, Isaac) was not ruined. ▪ Abimelech’s name has already been vindicated at first. Is God unfair to him now? 	<p>Gen 20:1-18, HA 56-57 NJBC</p> <p>K. Armstrong, <u>Bible</u>, p 15-16</p> <p>HA 56</p> <p>NJBC 71:59</p> <p>HA 148,61</p> <p>Gen 20:17 HA 149</p> <p>HA 148-149</p>
C	<p><u>The Intercessory Power of Abraham</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ In spite of Abraham’s weaknesses and the fact that he has repeatedly lied about the truth, God chooses to heal Abimelech and his family through Abraham’s intercession,. ▪ It has been recorded many times in Scripture that though the people in power might be weak in spirit, they can still fulfill their responsibilities through the special grace accompanying their position. ▪ The efficacy of the Sacrament does not depend on the holiness of the person conducting the Sacrament, but it relies on the special grace accompanying the position and the ritual itself. This is 	<p>Gen 20:17 HA 57-58</p> <p>Ex 17:1-7, Jn 11:45-53</p> <p>J. Martos, <u>Doors to the Sacred</u>, p 64-65</p>

	<p>called “ex opera operato”, meaning “from the doing of the thing done”.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Therefore, in spite of the anti-Catholic behavior or teaching against the Catholic Church of some priests, the Sacraments they administer are still valid. This includes the Eucharist blessed by immoral priests. ▪ How should believers deal with the priests who are heretic or immoral? “Therefore, do whatever they teach you and follow it; but do not do as they do, for they do not practise what they teach.” 	<p>Mt 23:1-3</p>
<p>D</p>	<p><u>The Birth of Isaac</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ God’s promise has been fulfilled and Sarah believed in God. “Now Sarah said, ‘God has brought laughter for me; everyone who hears will laugh with me.’” She has foretold what the Virgin Mary said, “for he has looked with favour on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed”. The Mother of Israel foretells the Mother of the Church (New Israel). ▪ “Making laughter at the expense of her son, Isaac” reflects the oppression of Isaac by Ishmael, and the power struggle between them. ▪ The meaning of sending away Hagar and Ishmael. ▪ Abraham sent Hagar and Ishmael away with “bread and a skin of water”. This shows his reluctance of separating from them. ▪ The life of Abraham reveals the importance of prayer. 	<p>Gen 21</p> <p>Lk 1:48</p> <p>HA 149, Ignatius Catholic Study Bible on Galatians, 4:29 Gal 4:30</p> <p>HA 150</p> <p>HA 61-62</p>