

Cultivating The Love Of God

Many, in pursuit of the final end of the Christian life, prefer to devote their attention to acquiring perfection of conduct rather than to cultivating the love of God, and find, as the result of their efforts, that they are as far off from one as from the other. To seek to avoid offending God, by watching over our conduct, rather than by inciting ourselves to an affection for Him, Whom we wish not to displease, is an endeavour that meets with scant success. Eagerness to possess moral rectitude and shrinking from the ugliness of moral imperfection is not quite the same thing as actually seeking intimacy with God. Many there are who are more moved by the ideal of their own freedom from moral flaw than by the ideal of loving God with the love of friendship or with the affection of children. In this lies the explanation of the poor quality of the lives of so many Christians. They have not resolutely set before them *God to love with all their hearts, and to love with an ever-increasing love every day, as the object towards which to direct all the energies of their souls.* They have set their eyes on a lower ideal—to work out their existence on earth in a righteous way, but according to their own tastes. They determine not to offend God, but they have no intention of suspending every moment, every act, every thought, every desire, every feeling, every aspiration to His good Will and Pleasure. They do not seek to misuse their lives, they desire only to use them according to their own good will and pleasure. Like the prodigal, they ask the substance of their term of earthly existence from their Heavenly Father in order that they may dispose of it freely. Their intention is not bad; they have the desire to regulate each action by the standard of moral rectitude. They merely do not aspire to have their every act regulated by the dictates of paternal love. They do not desire actually to squander their existence; they merely intend to use it for human and personal ends. Whilst doing all this they have no wish to be estranged from God their Father; on the contrary, they are ever tortured by the fear of His displeasure. They make continual efforts to maintain good relations with Him. They will do anything to succeed in this, short of the one thing necessary, the surrender of their lives to His controlling love. Father Edward Leen

1. There will be **No** Catechism class today after the 10:00 A.M. Mass.
2. There will be **No** Oblate meeting this morning.
3. Friday, June 11, 2010 is the wonderful Feast of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus. Need it be said that such a day demands of us all most serious prayer and acts of Love to the Sacred Heart. May The Sacred Heart of Jesus bless us all and protect us all.
4. **N.B.:** There is no Mass at Our Lady of Lourdes Chapel in Montgomery today (First Sunday). There will be Mass at Our Lady of Lourdes Chapel on June 13 (Second Sunday). The Chapel Picnic will take place after Mass, June 13, (Second Sunday). There will be no Mass at St. Pius V Chapel in Birmingham on June 6, nor on June 13, we return to our regular schedule of Mass at St. Pius V Chapel on Sunday June 20.
5. Please pray for our Sick and Shut-Ins. Let us pray for everyone
6. **MASSES FOR THE WEEK:** (Father Abbot Leonard's schedule only)
 - SUNDAY: For the People of our Chapels
 - MONDAY: For the Family of Joseph Westrick
 - TUESDAY: Special Int. Peggy Rosenberg
 - WEDNESDAY: Welfare Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Langford
 - THURSDAY: Poor Souls in Purgatory
 - FRIDAY: For our Monks and Nuns and Oblates
 - SATURDAY: Special Int. Barbara Hopkins

A Thought To Remember ...

Tranquility

To have the life which we are driven to seek by the forces created in us by grace, we must have God; we must bring Him into our souls. As long as we are not in possession of life, we shall be tortured by the insatiable desire for it, and know no peace. There is no tranquility possible for us unless we possess God. Father Edward Leen