

Perhaps the most accurate thing that can be said about a true Catholic is that Catholic Life is a combination of PENANCE AND PRAYER. The approach to true Catholicity is the approach to CHARITY which is the Parent of Penance and Prayer. Pursuit of the object loved means the rejection of all other possible loves; it means the REPRESSION of every obstacle to the object that is loved. There cannot be two loves - "You cannot serve two masters - either you will love the one and hate the other, - - etc." There can be only one love, and the love we here speak of manifests itself in the penance and the prayer endured and offered by the lover. Penance indicates discipline. Consequently, love without discipline (penance would not be love at all, but licence. Witness the attitude of today - no discipline - - free love - - total licence - - no restraint - - no penance. Service without the repression of other possible services would not be service at all, but only one or other form of selfishness. Sacrifice and penance and discipline are the expression of love, service, selflessness, and there is no sacrifice where there is no repression. The idea that repression is always wrong reflects the age and the society in which such an idea flourishes. Repression is not always wrong, and all one has to do is to investigate the Law itself and see the way in which it is expressed: THOU SHALT NOT have strange gods before Me; THOU SHALT NOT kill; THOU SHALT NOT commit adultery; THOU SHALT NOT steal; THOU SHALT NOT covet; etc. etc. Modern thought and teaching strongly criticizes the NEGATIVISM of this approach. But does not present teaching take too much for granted when it promotes the advantages of the positive approach? Yes it does. What do the resulting facts of such a position indicate? How have the Catholic Peoples reacted to such a mentality??: (1) no more confessions to amount to anything; (2) drastic drop in mass attendance; (3) the wholesale closing of Catholic Churches; (4) wholesale defections of men in the holy priesthood; (5) wholesale defections of men and women in the holy religious life; (6) pre-marital sex; (7) free sex; (8) abortion, and many many other off-spring of such a mentality. Did our Holy Martyrs die for such as this, or did they die because the Love they had for their Redeemer was strong enough to lead them to whatever torture was in store for them? To say that human instincts need to be brought into the open is to assume that human instincts are good and can be left to express themselves in safety. However good human instincts were before the fall of Adam and Eve, they are surely not uniformly good now. If the noble instincts that exist in man are to have their way, those that are not noble must be repressed. If one is to be good, he must suppress evil. If one is to please his God, then one must not be tolerant of anything that is not of God. To urge the claims of nature's law is to point to only one of nature's rulings: nature as a whole is not self-perfecting. Leave a field of corn to develop itself and it will become a field of weeds. Leave a child to develop itself, and you will have an animal. Leave a man to perfect himself on his own terms, and you will have a monster.

A good Catholic takes repression in his stride not because he likes repressing his instincts but because he loves God. He knows that here is one instinct which must at all cost be followed, so the repression of other instincts is automatically assumed. It is a mistake to think that a good Catholic man or woman is waging war on his senses for the sake of his or her aggression. He or she wages war for the sake of peace - - for the sake of peace in Christ:

ONLY FOR THE SAKE OF PEACE IN CHRIST.