

Our Bulletins at the present time, are concerned with the interior life of the soul. The present discussions are concerned with the interior love that the soul has for God, but such a soul must watch for improper dispositions that may develop within it. One of these dispositions has to do with ZEAL, for the soul that loves God sincerely is also devoured with zeal, but it is for the glory of the house of the Lord: ZELUS DOMUS TUAE

What in fact is zeal? It is an ardour that burns and is communicated, that consumes and is spread abroad, it is a flame of love - - OR OF HATRED - - manifested by action. The soul inflamed with holy zeal spends itself for the interests of God, without counting the cost. Every Christian who truly loves God and Christ, who wishes to respond to the desire of the Heart of the Divine Master, ought then to be inspired with this zeal. Every Christian must be zealous for the salvation of his neighbor, and such concern, if properly directed is called "GOOD ZEAL", but if improperly directed, or motivated by improper sentiments, it is called: "Evil Zeal" or "BITTER ZEAL". It is this latter that we shall concern ourselves with today. Disguised in whatever way, evil zeal leads to hell. Such is the zeal of the agents of Satan who are intent on snatching from Christ's hands, by every means, the souls redeemed by His Precious Blood. It appears to be done for good, and in the name of good, but this is a baneful ardour and it constitutes the most bitter form of evil zeal. There is, for example, the zeal of the Pharisees strict observers of the outward law. Careful inspection demonstrates that this zeal has its source, not in the love of God and of our neighbor, but in pride. Those who are tainted with it are filled with inordinate esteem for their own perfections; they do not conceive of any other ideal than their own; all that does not accord with it is necessarily blameworthy; they want to bend everyone to their own way of seeing and doing; hence arise dissensions. This zeal tends to hatred. This zeal, also, is excessive in all it does. It is ever strained, ever restless, tormented, agitated; nothing is ever perfect enough for such souls. See with what acrimony the Pharisees, moved by bitter zeal, pursue the Lord Jesus, putting insidious questions to Him, setting snares to entrap Him, seeking not to know the truth, but to find Christ in fault. See how they press Him, how they try to induce Him to condemn the woman taken in adultery: "Now Moses in the law commanded us to stone such a one. But what sayest Thou?" See how they reproach Him for healing on the Sabbath day; how they complain of the disciples for rubbing the ears of corn in their hands on the day of rest; how they are scandalised at seeing the Divine Master sit down to table with sinners and publicans. These are so many manifestations of "bitter Zeal" into which HYPOCRISY so often enters. The Pharisees were urged not by the zeal of justice which fears the contagion of evil example, but by the impatience of a bitterness and the ostentatious pride of an affected piety. THEY WERE PRAYERFUL MAN - NOT MEN OF PRAYER!! They were filled with their tyranny over their brothers, so filled with disdain against them, actually they had forgotten that they were brothers with anyone. It was not compassion for the weakness held in common by all men - for they held themselves to be beyond comparison. They acted as if they alone had been impeccable and perfect and without stain, and therefore always spoke disdainfully of publicans and sinners. They set themselves up as public censors, not to heal wounds and correct sin, but to exalt themselves above others, and arrogantly display their proud justice.

(NOTE:- these words are the words of the great Abbot Columban Marmion, OSB. Perhaps a bit strong for the purposes of our work in the development of interior spirituality. They do, with the change of certain names, resemble the unfortunate atmosphere which exists in some of our traditionalist centers. We must everyone work to change this evil.)

MASSSES FOR THE WEEK:

SUNDAY: 6:00 A.M. For Prayer Promises and Benefactors
9:30 A.M. For the People of the Chapels
12:30 P.M. For the Poor Souls in Purgatory
MONDAY: Dec. James Palm
TUESDAY: Thksg. Steffne Witney
WEDNESDAY: Special Int. John Dziedziak
THURSDAY: Welfare William Sanders
FRIDAY: Dec. Edward Birringer
SATURDAY: Dec. Vincent Denicola

WE MUST ALWAYS BE CAREFUL TO FORGIVE THE
WRONGDOING OF OUR BROTHER! NEITHER MUST
WE CONDEMN THE GOOD WORKS WHICH HE PER-
FORMS, SIMPLY BECAUSE WE HAPPEN TO KNOW
OF HIS SIN! THE CRIME OF DAVID DOES NOT
DESTROY FOR US THE VALUE OF THE PSALMS!!