

# CATHOLIC LIFE EXPERIENCE - - HOLINESS OF LIFE

## Part 3

Unholy people cannot perform holy works: "nor can a bad tree bear good fruit". It was pride that caused man to be expelled from the Garden of Eden. Pride can be said to be the "bad tree" and the bad fruit of that bad tree are: lust, self-will, disobedience, uncharity, self-opinion, self affirmation, self-assertion, anger and all the rest. Some have said that man is essentially depraved, and can do nothing that is good - no matter what. This is not Catholic teaching. The Catholic Church teaches that man is deprived, who with God's help and Grace and a firm purpose is able to perform meritorious works, and save his soul.

At this point it has to be clearly understood that the slime of lust, and self-will and anger and all the other evils spewed out and instantly covered man with filth from head to foot - - the same instant he gave in to his pride and took a bite out of the apple. It is important to note that the very first thing man did upon eating of the apple was to run and make clothes for himself. Man put clothes upon himself - even without being told to do so! For the first time in his history, man looked upon himself and saw that he was naked! Satan was triumphant. He had used his most effective and powerful weapon - PRIDE - and man quickly and easily fell prey to it. God's plan had been "vandalized" and all was dismantled. As he walked away from the Garden Gate, man walked in a state of destitution, for he had lost everything that was positive in his life, and he stared at the negative - black - existence that stood face to face with him. Man was in a state of complete destitution and poverty.

And so it remains to this very day. The corruption of pride and lust and greed and all the vices spreads slime all around, and it is with great effort, but helped by the Love of an all loving God, that anyone can clear himself of the mire. This, of course, can be done, and it has been done. The countless Saints give proof of it, and they should be looked at for the example they have given. If man sets his mind to it, he can become a Saint, but he has to set his mind upon SANCTITY. On the other hand, the damned in hell have given us their bad example, and have shown us what takes place when man refuses to look for the correct way back to the entrance of the Garden. Jesus Christ, sent by the Father to help man lift himself up out of the filth that surrounds him, taught man by clear example how to find his way back to justification and salvation. However, few there are who have taken Christ's teaching and example seriously. Man, somehow, continues to try to bring good and evil together. There is no compromise between good and evil!

A careful look at the Pharisee who went up to the temple to pray, paints a stark picture. "Two men went up to the temple to pray" is probably the most pointed and instructional sermon given to man by Our Divine Saviour. The message is clear! The message is profound! the message is uncompromising! The decision is final! Every thread of the tapestry of the interior life of the soul - - what is expected of every soul brought into being by the divine and loving Creator - - is to be found in the few brief words of this instruction.

Obviously, the Pharisee was a prayerful man - he said so himself! He was a very pious man - he said so himself! He was a good man - he said so himself! He recognized all of the wonderful and desirable qualities he considered mirrored in himself, and because of all of his virtue he thought it right and just to put himself a cut above those around him, and he took pains to remind God of all that was so good in him, and he thanked God for having made him better than those around him. When the urge came upon him to cry out about his greatness, he STRODE ALL THE WAY UP TO THE VERY FRONT OF THE TEMPLE TO MAKE HIS PROCLAMATION, in the view of the audience that looked upon him, and who judged him a "good man". Yet, for all of his impressive qualities HE WAS REJECTED! If therefore, he was rejected (and we must comprehend what rejection implies here) it has to mean that the Pharisee was an unholy man, and all he did was for naught. Unholy people cannot bring about and do holy things!

As we turn to look to the back of the temple - hidden where no one could see him, we find a man. He was full of shame and humiliation, and was terribly aware of his sad state. Yet, WITH NO MORE THAN EIGHT WORDS - - he said more than the Pharisee, who - in spite of all his palaver - said nothing. The man in the shadows was painfully aware of his worthlessness, and was ready to do something about it. When he fell down on the knees of his heart and asked for mercy - - HE GOT IT!

1. Please pray for all the Sick and Shut-Ins of our Chapels especially remembering Carol Girardi, Marilyn Joan Diehl and Frank Nash.
2. MASSES FOR THE WEEK: (Abbot Leonard's Schedule, nly)

SUNDAY:	For the People of the Chapels
MONDAY:	Dec. Mac Mruz
TUESDAY:	Welfare John Dumbacher
WEDNESDAY:	Special Int. Marian Ploeckelman
THURSDAY:	Welfare Lucia Chavira
FRIDAY:	Welfare Isabella McNulty
SATURDAY:	Welfare Gertrude Loyd
3. Pray for God's help and for the protection of the True Faith on Earth. Pray that there be more prayer and less debate and argument. Our help is in the Name of the Lord, NOT in the work of our hands.