



Newsletter of the
HOLY EUCHARIST APOSTOLATE

P.O. BOX 206, Lombard, IL 60148-0206 U.S.A.

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(CONTACT: DEACON BILL CRANE AT THE ABOVE POST OFFICE BOX 206)

ADORATION OF THE EUCHARIST FOR THE SANCTIFICATION OF CATHOLIC CLERGY

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Could You Not Spend One Hour With Me? MT XXVI – 40

OH, PRIEST!



Prayer for Priests

St. Faustina, d. 1938

O my Jesus, I beg You on behalf of the whole Church:

Grant it love and the light of Your Spirit,
and give power to the words of priests, so that
hardened hearts might be brought to repentance
and return to You.

Lord, give us holy priests: You Yourself maintain
them in holiness. O divine and great High Priest,
may the power of Your mercy accompany
them everywhere and protect them from the devil's
traps and snares, which are continually being set
for the souls of priests.

May the power of Your mercy, O Lord, shatter
and bring to naught all that might tarnish the sanctity
of priests, for You can do all things.

I ask You, Jesus, for a special blessing and for light
for the priests before whom I will make my
Confessions throughout my lifetime. Amen.

From letters to Saint Ignatius (1)

St. Francis Xavier, priest, d. 1552

We have visited the villages of the new converts who accepted the Christian religion a few years ago. No Portuguese live here—the country is so utterly barren and poor. The native Christians have no priests. They know only that they *are* Christians. There is nobody to say Mass for them; nobody to teach them the Creed, the Our Father, the Hail Mary and the Commandments of God’s Law.

I have not stopped since the day I arrived. I conscientiously made the round of the villages. I bathed in the sacred waters all the children who had not yet been baptized. This means that I have purified a very large number of children so young that, as the saying goes, they could not tell their right hand from their left. The older children would not let me say my Office or eat or sleep until I taught them one prayer or another. Then I began to understand: “The kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.”

I could not refuse so devout a request without failing in devotion myself. I taught them, first the confession of faith in the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit; then the Apostles Creed, the Our Father and Hail Mary. I noticed among them persons of great intelligence. If only someone could educate them in the Christian way of life, I have no doubt that they would make excellent Christians.

Many, many people hereabouts are not becoming Christians for one reason only: there is nobody to make them Christians. Again and again I have thought of going round the universities of Europe, especially Paris, and everywhere crying out like a madman, riveting the attention of those with more learning than charity; “What a tragedy: how many souls are being shut out of heaven and falling into hell, thanks to you!”

I wish they would work as hard at this as they do at their books, and so settle their account with God for their learning and the talents entrusted to them.

The thought would certainly stir most of them to meditate on spiritual realities, to listen actively to what God is saying to them. They would forget their own desires, their human affairs, and give themselves over entirely to God’s will and his choice. They would cry out with all their heart: *Lord, I am here! What do you want me to do?*” Send me anywhere you like—even to India!

***And he said to them, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few;
Pray therefore the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.”***

Luke 10:2

The Good Fight of Priests and Men of God (2)

St. Paul, Tim: 5:17-22, 6:10-14

Presbyters who do well as leaders deserve to be paid double, especially those whose work is preaching and teaching. The Scripture says, “You shall not put a muzzle on an ox when he is threshing the grain,” and also, “The worker deserves his wages.”

Pay no attention to an accusation against a presbyter unless it is supported by two or three witnesses. The ones who do commit sin, however, are to be publicly reprimanded, so that the rest may fear to offend.

I charge you before God, Christ Jesus, and the chosen angels: apply these rules without prejudice, act with complete impartiality! Never lay hands hastily on anyone or you may be sharing in the misdeeds of others. Keep yourself pure.

The love of money is the root of all evil. Some men in their passion for it have strayed from the faith, and have come to grief amid great pain.

Man of God that you are, flee from all this. Instead, seek after integrity, piety, faith, love, steadfastness, and a gentle spirit. Fight the good fight of faith. Take firm hold on the everlasting life to which you were called when, in the presence of many witnesses, you made your noble profession of faith.

Before God, who gives life to all, and before Christ Jesus, who in bearing witness made his noble profession before Pontius Pilate, I charge you to keep God's command without blame or reproach until our Lord Jesus Christ shall appear.

The Office of Priests

Thomas a Kempis, d. 1471

Oh, how great and honorable is the office of priests, to whom it is given to consecrate with sacred words the Lord of majesty; to bless Him with their lips, to hold Him with their hands, to receive Him with their own mouths, and to administer Him to others!

Oh! how clean ought those hands to be, how pure that mouth, how holy that body, how unspotted the heart of a priest, into whom the Author of purity so often enters.

From the mouth of a priest nothing but what is holy, no word but what is good and profitable ought to proceed, who so often receives the Sacrament of Christ.

His eyes ought to be simple and chaste which are used to behold the Body of Christ: his hands pure and lifted up to Heaven, which are used to handle the Creator of Heaven and earth.

Unto priests especially it is said in the law: Be ye holy, because I the Lord your God am holy. (*Lev. 19:2*)



Let thy grace, O Almighty God, assist us, that we, who have undertaken the office of priesthood, may serve Thee worthily and devoutly in all purity and good conscience (*1 Tim 1:15*).

And if we cannot live in such great innocence as we ought, grant us at least duly to bewail the sins which we have committed; and in the spirit of humility, and the resolution of a good will, to serve Thee more fervently for the time to come.

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O Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament, have mercy on us!

O Iesu in sanctissimo Sacramento, miserere Nobis!

The Raccolta, page 81

An Infinite Honor

St. Alphonsus De Liguori (3)

Jesus has died to institute the priesthood. It was not necessary for the Redeemer to die in order to save the world; a drop of his blood, a single tear, or prayer, was sufficient to procure salvation for all; for such a prayer, being of infinite value, should be sufficient to save not one but a thousand worlds. But to institute the priesthood, the death of Jesus Christ has been necessary. Had he not died, where should we find the victim that the priests of the New Law now offer? a victim altogether holy and immaculate, capable of giving to God an honor worthy of God. As has been already said, all the lives of men and angels are not capable of giving to God an infinite honor like that which a priest offers to him by a single Mass.

More Thoughts Regarding Priests

St. Alphonsus De Liguori

Hence the Angelic Doctor [St. Thomas Aquinas], considering all that has been said on the sanctity necessary for the priesthood, has written that to exercise Holy Orders worthily more than ordinary virtue is required. Again he says, “Those that devote themselves to the celebration of the divine mysteries should be perfect in virtue.” In another place he says: “In order to exercise this office in a worthy manner interior perfection is required.” Priests should be holy, that they may give glory, and not dishonor to that God whose ministers they are: *They shall be holy to their God and shall not profane His name* Levit. 21:6. (4)

“The Devil does not go in search of infidels and those that are outside” (that is, who are outside of the sanctuary); “he looks for booty in the Church of Christ, for according to Habakkuk they are his choice food.” To the devils the souls of ecclesiastics are the most delicious food. (5)

St. Bernardine of Sienna has written: “Holy Virgin, excuse me, for I speak not against thee: the Lord has raised the priesthood above thee.” The saint assigns the reason of the superiority of the priesthood over Mary; she conceived Jesus Christ only once; but by consecrating the Eucharist, the priest, as it were, conceives him as often as he wishes, so that if the person of the Redeemer had not as yet been in the world, the priest, by pronouncing the words of consecration, would produce this great person of a Man-God. “O wonderful dignity of the priests,” cries out St. Augustine, “in their hands as in the womb of the Blessed Virgin, the Son of God becomes incarnate.”

Hence, if a priest is not holy, he is in great danger of being lost. What do some, or rather the greater number of priests do in order to acquire sanctity? They say the Office and Mass, and do nothing more: they live without making mental prayer, without mortification, without recollection. Some will say, It is enough for me to be saved. “No,” says St. Augustine, “it is not enough: “if you say that it is enough, you will be lost.” (6)

The priesthood is the love of the Heart of Jesus.

St. John Vianney

Desire for The Vision of God

Saint Anselm, bishop, d. 1109

Insignificant man, escape from you every day business for a short while, hide for a moment from your restless thoughts. Break off from your cares and troubles and be less concerned about your tasks and labors. Make a little time for God and rest a while in him.

Enter into your mind’s inner chamber. Shut out everything but God and whatever helps you to seek him; and when you have shut the door, look for him. Speak now to God and say with your whole heart: *I seek your face; your face, Lord, I desire.*

Lord, my God, teach my heart where and how to seek you, where and how to find you. Lord, if you are not here where shall I look for you in your absence? Yet if you are everywhere, why do I not see you when you are present? But surely you dwell in “light inaccessible.” And where is light inaccessible? How shall I approach light inaccessible? Or who will lead me and bring me into it that I may see you there? And then, by what signs and under what forms shall I seek you? I have never seen you, Lord my God; I do not know your face.

Lord most high, what shall this exile do, so far from you? What shall you servant do tormented by love of you and cast so far from your face? He yearns to see you, and your face is too far from him. He desires to approach you, and your dwelling is unapproachable. He longs to find you, and does not know your dwelling place. He strives to look for you, and does not know your face.

Lord, you are my God and you are my Lord, and I have never seen you. You have made me and remade me, and you have given me all the good things I possess, and still I do not know you. I was made in order to see you, and I have not yet done that for which I was made.

Lord, how long will it be? How long, Lord, will you forget us? How long will you turn your face away from us? When will you look upon us and hear us? When will you enlighten our eyes and show us your face? When will you give yourself back to us?

Look upon us, Lord, hear us and enlighten us, show us your very self. Restore yourself to us that it may go well with us whose life is so evil without you. Take pity on our efforts and our striving toward you, for we have no strength apart from you.

Teach me to seek you, and when I seek you show yourself to me, for I cannot seek you unless you teach me, nor can I find you unless you show yourself to me. Let me seek you in desiring you and desire you in seeking you, find you in loving you and love you in finding you.

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Now the whole rite of the Christian religion is derived from Christ’s priesthood.

St. Thomas Aquinas

St. John Bosco: a Priest, a Miracle and a Vision

St. John Bosco was always very devoted to the Eucharist. In numerous writings the saint speaks of the importance of this Sacrament. Once when there were only eight Hosts left in the ciborium, he began to multiply them so that he was able to distribute Communion to 360 youth who were present at Mass.

Biographers recount that in 1848, during one of his Masses, Don Bosco realized just as he was about to distribute Communion to 360 young people that the ciborium in the tabernacle contained only eight Hosts. Everyone noticed and wondered what Don Bosco would do. Joseph Buzzetti, who later became one of the first Salesian priests, was serving Mass that day. When he saw Don Bosco multiply the Hosts and give Communion to the 360 boys, he was overcome with emotion.

Don Bosco relates that he saw in a dream a terrible sea battle caused by a multitude of boats, both large and small, fighting against a single majestic ship, a symbol of the Church. Struck many times but always victorious, the ship was guided by the Pope to anchor securely between two tall pillars in the sea. The first held up a huge Host with the inscription, "Salvation of the Faithful", and the other pillar, which was lower, supported a statue of Mary Immaculate with the inscription, "Help of Christians." (7)

Real Presence-Mary-Pope: the foundation of our spiritual life. Or, putting it another way: belief and adoration of Jesus in the most Blessed Sacrament; devotion to his Mother Mary; obedience to a holy pope, the teachings of the magisterium and bishops in union with same.

Deacon Bill Crane, ed.

Ponder This

Scripture says: *I will dwell in the inheritance of the Lord.* The Lord's inheritance is, in a general sense, the Church; in a special sense, Mary; in an individual sense, the Christian. Christ dwelt for nine months in the tabernacle of Mary's womb. He dwells until the end of the ages in the tabernacle of the Church's faith. He will dwell for ever in the knowledge and love of each faithful soul.

Blessed Isaac of Stella, abbot

The Blessed Sacrament Prayerbook by Father Francis X. Lasance was published in 2010 by Loreto Publications. It was originally published by Benziger Brothers in 1913. Here is the description from Loreto's website www.LoretoPubs.org: "Recommended by Pope Pius XI, 1248 pages, black leather embossed cover, 24k gold stamped lettering and cover image, 3.5 x 6 book format, gilt edges, flexible cover, rounded corners, satin ribbon page marker, quality paper." What can be added is this pocket sized volume is what could be called an "industrial strength" prayer book for adorers of our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament. **To order:** Loreto Publications, P.O. 603, Fitzwilliam, NH, 03447 or www.LoretoPubs.org **603-239-6671**

I Must Listen with Fear and Trembling (8)

Saint Augustine, bishop

You have often learned that all our hope is in Christ and that he is our true glory and our salvation. You are members of the flock of the Good Shepherd, who watches over Israel and nourishes his people. Yet there are shepherds who want to have the title of shepherd without wanting to fulfill a pastor's duties; let us then recall what God says to his shepherds through the prophet. You must listen attentively; I must listen with fear and trembling.

*The word of the Lord came to me and said: Son of man, prophesy against the shepherds of Israel and speak to the shepherds of Israel. We just heard this reading a moment ago, my brothers, and I have decided to speak to you on this passage. The Lord will help me to speak truth if I do not speak on my own authority. For if I speak on my own authority, I will be a shepherd nourishing myself and not the sheep. However, if my words are the Lord's, then he is nourishing you no matter who speaks. Thus says the Lord God: Shepherds of Israel, who have been nourishing only themselves! Should not the shepherds nourish the sheep? In other words, true shepherds take care of their sheep, not themselves. This is the principal reason why God condemns those shepherds: they took care of themselves rather than their sheep. Who are they who nourish themselves? They are the shepherds the Apostle described when he said: *They all seek what is theirs and not what is Christ's.**

I must distinguish carefully between two aspects of the role the Lord has given me, a role that demands a rigorous accountability, a role based on the Lord's greatness rather than on my own merit. The first aspect is that I am a Christian; the second, that I am a leader. I am a Christian for my own sake, whereas I am a leader for your sake; the fact that I am a Christian is to my own advantage, but I am a leader for your advantage.

Many persons come to God as Christians but not as leaders. Perhaps they travel by an easier road and are less hindered since they bear a lighter burden. In addition to the fact that I am a Christian and must give God an account of my life, I as a leader must give him an account of my stewardship as well.

The Insane Thought of Divine Abandonment

St. Nikolai Velimirovich, d. 1956, U.S.A.

If your entire life passed smoothly and without worry, then weep for yourself. For the Gospel and the experience of the people, with one accord assert that no one has, without great suffering and pain, left behind any great and beneficial work on earth or was glorified in the heavens.

If however, your earthly sojourn is completely adorned with sweat and tears to attain righteousness and truth, rejoice and be exceedingly glad for truly great is your reward in the heavens. Do not ever succumb to the insane thought that God has abandoned you. God knows exactly how much one can endure and, according to that, measures the sufferings and pains of everyone.

St. Nil Sorsky says: "When even men know how much weight a horse, or a donkey or a camel can carry and, according to that they are loading them according to their strength; when a potter knows how long to leave the clay in the kiln for it to be neither shattered nor over-baked, how could God not know how much temptation a soul can bear to make it ready and fitted for the Kingdom of Heaven?"

There is nothing deader than a dead priest!

Those were the words of Father Edward Flannery during the 1980s on the lack of Masses for priest's souls.

When was the last time you had a Mass said for a priest's soul?



Prayer for Priests (9)

Fr. Lasance

My God, I believe in the sublime dignity of the priesthood—a dignity which St. Denis calls divine; a dignity which surpasses that of kings and angels, as St. Ambrose says. O my God! Thy priests are the leaders of Thy people, the guardians of Thy Church, the light of the world (*Matt. V. 14*), the dispensers of the sacraments, the vicars of Jesus Christ, and His coadjutors in the work of salvation (*I Cor. iii. 9*).

Grant then to me and to all the faithful, to have the same respect and submission toward the person, words, and counsels of Thy ministers as toward Thine own, since Thou Thyself didst say to them: “He that heareth you heareth Me, and he that despiseth you despiseth Me.” (*Luke x 26*). I ask of Thee, my God, for all the priests in the world, and specially for those who have done any good to my soul, by seeking to sanctify, the grace of loving Thee much and making Thee to be loved by others, so that by their piety, their virtues, and the ardor of their zeal they may merit a place with Thy apostles and most faithful servants.

Divine Spirit! Influence all their thoughts, words, and deeds; take complete possession of their minds and hearts, so that they may live in Thee and Thou in them. Jesus, meek and gentle Lamb of God, let their lives resemble the life Thou Thyself didst lead upon earth! Holy Mary, Mother of Jesus, do thou by thy intercession sanctify the souls of all our priests and second their efforts in the work of saving souls; shield them, and defend them as thine own. Pray for them, that the peace of God may be always with them, and that they may attain to the everlasting blessedness of heaven. Amen.

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 3. St. Alphonsus De Liguori, *Dignity and duties of the Priest*, p. 6, Brooklyn, 1927, Redemptorist Fathers.
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