

Sermon on the 5th Resumed Sunday after Epiphany, conclusion

November 25, 2018

Here is an example of a morning offering: "O my God, in union with the Immaculate Heart of Mary, I offer Thee the Precious Blood of Jesus from all the altars throughout the world, joining with It the offering of my every thought, word, and action of this day. I desire to gain every indulgence and merit I can, offering them, together with myself, to Mary Immaculate, whom Thou hast appointed the dispenser of the merits of Thy Precious Blood, especially by means of this Scapular [Here kiss your Brown Scapular] that she may best apply them to the interests of Thy Most Sacred Heart. Amen."

Purity of intention turns everything we do into something meritorious for eternity. This is what the saints did, for they sanctified their common actions to obtain great grace with everything they did. From this foundation, they were then capable of great sacrifices and even martyrdom or the working many miracles. They purified themselves by doing the simple tasks with extraordinary fervor and a good motive.

We too must strive to do this. If we do, we will be pleasing to God, glorifying Him with everything we do, and essentially praying all the time. We will always have chores, duties and responsibilities to do, or perhaps sickness and injury to suffer, so why not make these also an occasion of grace. This will be pleasing to God, and He will help us in our work by blessing us and thus making our cross lighter. Even our pleasures and recreations should be for God's glory. St. Charles Borromeo was playing chess with seminarians during recreation and the seminarians started a discussion about what they would do if they knew they only had an hour to live. They came up with all sorts of pious ideas, and when they asked the great saint what he would do, he said "I would finish this chess game. I started it for the glory of God and I will finish it for His glory."

Rev. Charles Van Vliet, FSSP

Pastor, Regina Caeli Parish