



INSTITUTE OF CHRIST THE KING
SOVEREIGN PRIEST
In the Diocese of Plymouth

2nd Sunday After Easter

16th of April 2023

The Love of God

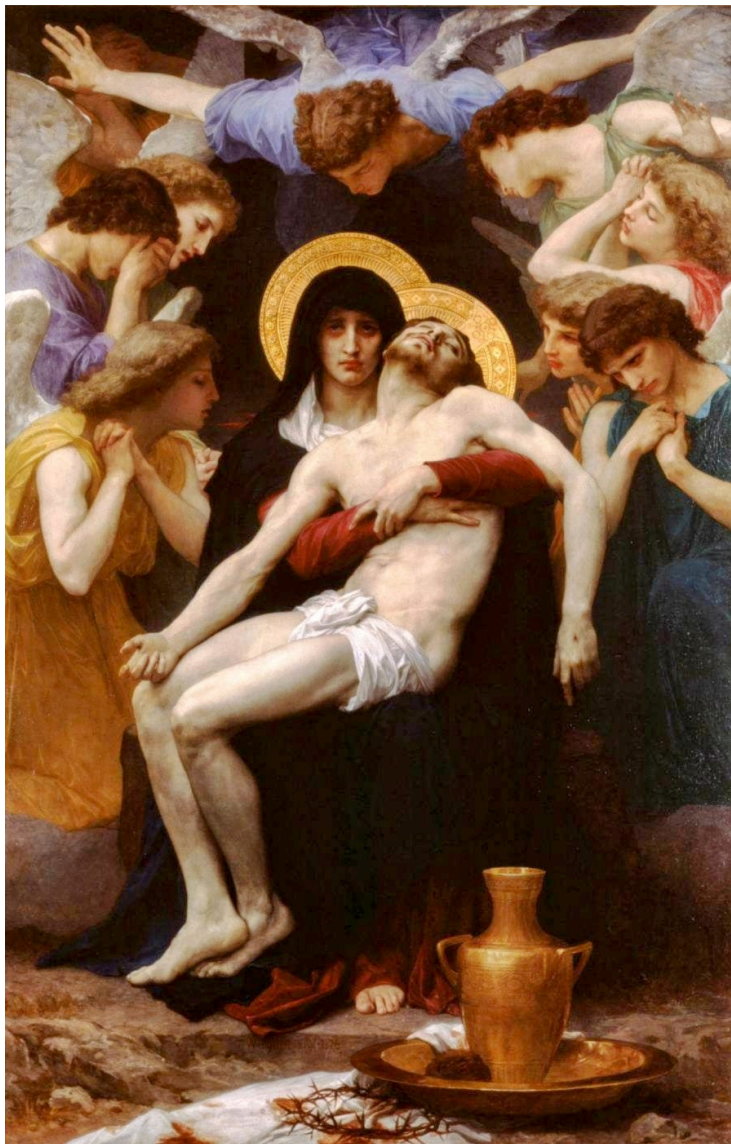


“Love of God is a divinely infused virtue which leads us to love the Lord Our God as the sovereign good, and purely for His own sake. The motive which prompts us to love God is His own boundless perfection, on account of which alone He deserves to be loved, even though we had no reward to hope for or no punishment to dread. He

who loves God because he finds in Him his own happiness has an interested, a selfish love, which really belongs to the virtue of hope and not to love. But he who loves God because for His own sake He deserves to be loved, has the true and genuine love of friendship. The companions of King Louis of France met a woman one day who carried in one hand a burning torch and in the other a vessel of water. On being asked what these things signified, she replied: “With this torch I would flatly burn Heaven, and with this water extinguish the fire of Hell, in order that men might love God not because of the reward of Heaven or the punishment of Hell, but simply and solely because He deserves to be loved.”

The perfect love of God, however, does not exclude the hope of Heaven. We love God because He deserves to be loved, and we would love Him even though we had no reward to expect for doing so. But knowing as we do that He will give us a reward and that He even desires us to hope for it, we must confidently expect it and strive to attain it. To long for Heaven in order to possess God and love Him more perfectly is a true and perfect love of God, for eternal glory is the perfection of this love.

All perfection consists in the love of God; for love is the virtue which unites us most intimately with God. All the other virtues are of no account unless they are accompanied by love. On the other hand, love has all the other virtues in her train, according to the teaching of St. Paul: "Charity is patient, is kind: charity envieth not, dealeth not perversely; is not puffed up; is not ambitious, seeketh not her own, is not provoked to anger, thinketh no evil; rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth with the truth; bearing all things." (1Cor. 13:4-7) "Love," concludes the Apostle, "is the fulfillment of the law." (Rom. 13:10)



"For God so loved the world, as to give his only begotten Son; that whosoever believeth in him, may not perish, but may have life everlasting. For God sent

not his Son into the world, to judge the world, but that the world may be saved by him." (John 3:16-17)

This induced St. Augustine to say: "Love and then do what you wish." He who loves another is very careful to cause him no offence; on the contrary, he is eager to do what will afford him pleasure, in like manner, he who loves God above all things abhors an offence against Him more than death itself, and strives as much as in him lies to please God. The first and greatest commandment which the Lord has given us, bids us love Him with our whole heart. "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with thy whole heart." (Deut. 6:5) As God has loved us with an infinite love, He desires that we should love Him sincerely, and He longs to possess our whole heart: "Son, give me thy heart." (Prov. 23:26). "What doth the Lord, thy God, require of thee, but that thou fear the Lord, thy God, and walk in His ways and love Him, and serve the Lord, thy God, with all thy heart and with all thy soul." (Deut. 10:12)

In the Old Law God commanded that fire be kept constantly burning on the altar. This altar, says St. Gregory, is a type of our heart in which the fire of divine love must ever burn. Therefore, to the command to love Him with the whole heart, God added this injunction: "And these words which I command thee this day shall be in thy heart; and thou shalt meditate upon them sitting in thy house, and walking on thy journey, sleeping and rising. And thou shalt bind them as a sign on thy hand, and they shall be and shall move between thy eyes. And thou shalt write them in the entry and on the doors of thy house." (Deut. 6:6-9)

In order to be continually mindful of them and make thy life comfortable to them. As a reward for this love, God promises to give us Himself: “ I am thy protector and thy reward exceeding great.” (Gen. 15:1) The prince of this world reward their faithful subjects with possessions, honours and privileges. The Lord God gives them who love Him nothing less than Himself.

We should certainly be amply rewarded by the knowledge that God loves those who love Him, as He says in so many passages of Holy Writ: “I love them that love me.” (Prov. 8:17). “He that abideth in charity, abideth in God and God in him.” (1 John 4:6)

He that loveth me shall be loved by my Father; and I will love him.” (John 14:21)

(Extracts taken from, ‘The twelve Steps to Holiness and Salvation,’ by St. Alphonsus Liguori).

SEMINARY COLLECTION



The Institute has 110 seminarians!

There will be a Collection on Sunday 23rd of April for the Institute’s seminary in Gricigliano, Italy to help the seminarians and to assist with operating expenses. Thank you for your generosity!

Please take an envelope and a gift aid form, available at the entrance.

April 21st 2023. St. Anselm



Bishop, Confessor, and doctor of the Church.

St Anselm, the famous Archbishop of Canterbury, was a Benedictine monk, who fought intrepidly for the faith and liberty of the Church. He is one of the greatest philosophers and mystics of the eleventh Century. He died in 1109 AD