

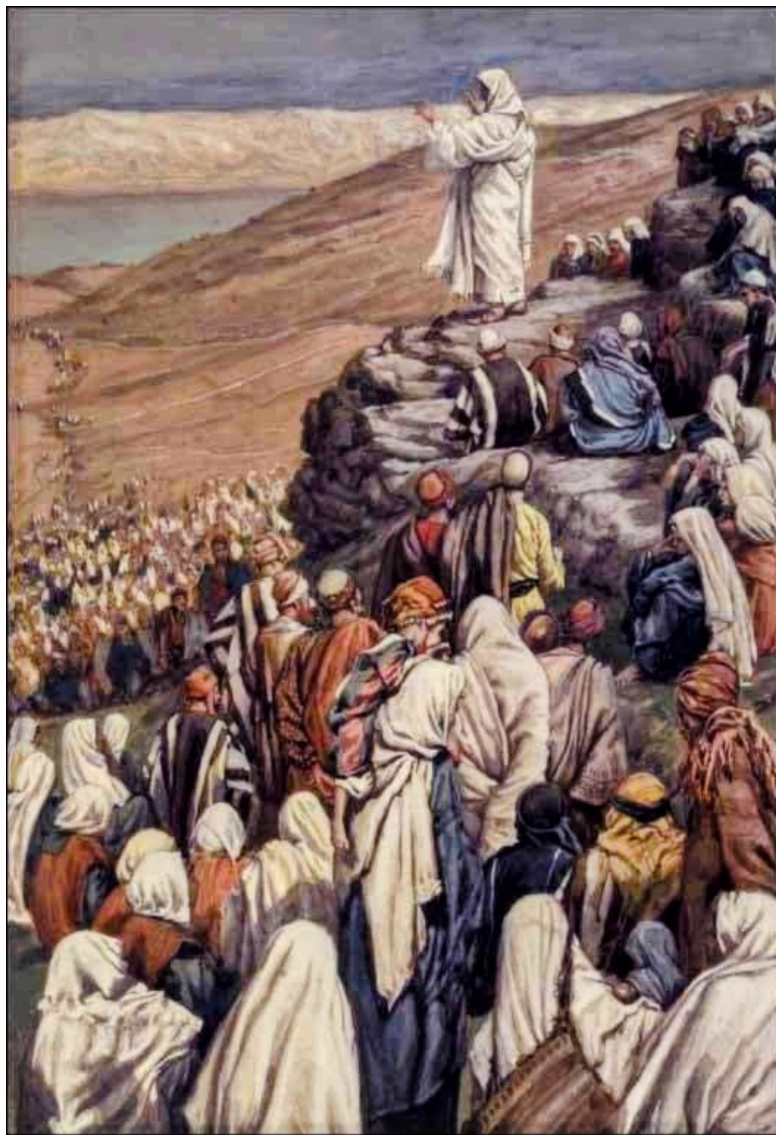


INSTITUTE OF CHRIST THE KING SOVEREIGN PRIEST *In the Diocese of Plymouth*

Sunday After Ascension

21st May 2023

The Virtue of Poverty and Detachment



matter what it may be. In this sense, poverty in spirit is necessary for all who are striving after perfection.

Our heart cannot exist without love; it will either love God or creatures. If it does not love creatures, it certainly will love God. In order to become holy we must therefore banish from our heart all that is not for God. When anyone came to the fathers of the desert and desired to be received by them he was asked: “Do you bring an empty heart that it may be filled by the Holy Ghost?” And they were right, for a heart that is filled with the things of earth has no room for the love of God. He who brings a vessel filled with earth to the spring will never be able to fill it with water until he empties it of the earth with which it is filled.

How does it happen that so many pray and go frequently to Holy Communion, and still make no considerable progress in the love of God? The reason is doubtless because the heart is full of self-esteem, of vanity, self-will and attachment to creatures. He, therefore, who wishes to arrive at the perfect love of God must practice poverty of Spirit. He must be detached from worldly possessions, from temporal honors, from his fellow creatures and from himself.

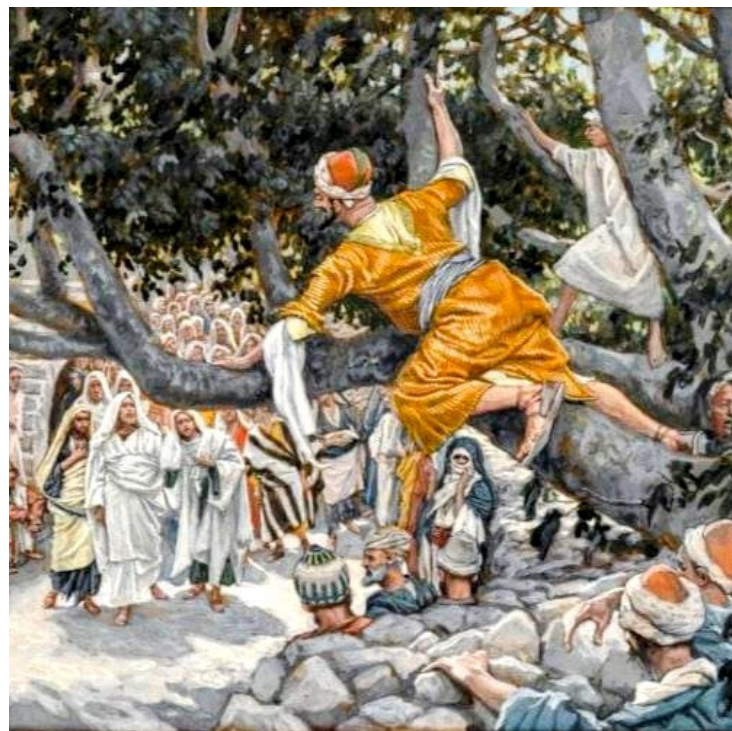
“When the masters of the spiritual life speak of poverty in spirit, they generally understand it in a twofold sense. In the restricted sense it means a detachment of the heart from earthly possessions. In the broad sense, by poverty in spirit they mean detachment from everything earthly, no

Our Divine Redeemer has said: “ *Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the Kingdom of heaven.* ” (Matt. 5:3). And again: “ *Woe to you rich.* ” (Luke. 6:24). What does He mean by these words? Does He mean that all the poor are happy and all the rich unhappy? Certainly not; He wishes rather to exhort all, both rich and poor, to the practice of the virtue of poverty and detachment. For there are many who are poor in the goods of this world, but their hearts cling tenaciously to the things of earth; while on the other hand, there are wealthy people whose hearts are entirely detached from their earthly possessions.

The poor of this world do not possess poverty of spirit from the mere fact that they suffer want of the goods of this life. Poverty of spirit consists in the desire to possess nothing but God. “I meet a poor man,” says St. Augustine, “ and yet I find he is not poor ”; that is to say: Many are poor in reality, few in spirit and desire. St Teresa says that they who appear externally poor without being so in spirit deceive both the world and themselves. What will their poverty in possession avail them? He who is externally poor, but in his heart has an insatiable desire for wealth has only the burdens, but not the virtue of poverty. The truly virtuous poor desires nothing but God, and for that reason they are immensely rich. Of them St. Paul speaks when he says: “ *Having nothing, they possess all things.* ” (2 Cor. 6:10)

But how can they who are rich in the goods of this earth still possess poverty of spirit? They can do so by having no inordinate

attachment to their riches. What are the goods of this earth? They are really goods only in appearance that can never satisfy the heart of a man. “ *You have eaten,* ” says the prophet Aggeus, “ *but you have not had enough.* ” (Agg. 1:6). Instead of satisfying the hunger, says St. Bernard, they only increase it. If worldly goods could satisfy the heart of man, the rich and mighty would be perfectly happy; but experience teaches the contrary. As a rule they are the most unhappy of men, for they are tortured by fears, jealousies and sadness. “ *Vanity of vanities and all is vanity.* ” I have had all these things, said Solomon. “ *and behold all is vanity and vexation of spirit.* ” (Eccles. 1:14).



Add to this fact that those who are always intent upon increasing their earthly possessions are in great danger of being eternally lost. The Apostles warns us against this in his epistle to Timothy: “ *They that will become rich, fall into temptation and into the snare of the devil, and into many unprofitable and hurtful desires which drown men in*

A Novena of Masses for Fathers

Enrol your loved ones: fathers, grandfathers, uncles, godfathers, teachers, priests or religious brothers, in the Novena of Masses offered by the Institute of Christ the King Sovereign Priest in the Diocese of Plymouth.

The Novena can be offered for the sanctification and salvation of the living as well as for the repose of the souls of those who have gone before us.

The nine consecutive Masses will begin on 19th June.



destruction and perdition. For the desire of money is the root of all evils; which some coveting have erred from the faith, and have entangled themselves in many sorrows.” (1Tim. 6:9-10).

If we desire to belong to God, we must renounce all attachments to the goods of the earth. He who strives for earthly goods, says St. Philip Neri, will never become a saint. The riches we must strive to gain says St. Prosper, are not temporal goods but virtues, humility, meekness, chastity, piety, for these will constitute our greatness and glory in heaven. *“Lay not up to yourselves treasures on earth: where rust and moth consume, and where thieves break through and steal.” (Matt. 6:19).*

The wealthy can practice poverty in spirit by giving alms and performing good works. “O happy exchange,” says St. Peter Damian, “we give earth and receive gold”; that is to say, we give our earthly possessions and receive in return graces from God and an eternal reward in heaven. In all ages of the Christian era there have been people of distinguished rank who lived in great simplicity in order to be able to perform good works. Violanta Palombara, a lady of nobility, clothed herself in ordinary linen. Her rosary was made of cheap wood. Just before her death she was heard to exclaim: “Oh, what do I see! My dress is becoming brilliant and my beads are sparkling like diamonds.”

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

MASS INTENTIONS

Date	AT LANHERNE	CANON TANNER
21	John & Lorelee Cox Benefactors	Novena Intentions of G. Z.
22	Mary McKerracher RIP	Novena Intentions of G. Z.
23	In thanksgiving - Fr Joseph Hamilton	Tina Terradillos, Ian MacDonald & Michael Heather RIP
24	Helen & Marjory Miller	Andrew Barry
25	McCarthy Family Private Intention	Cardinal Burke
26	M Hood & Family	Mgr Wach
27	Christine Mills	H Powell RIP

The Sisters of Lanherne are grateful to the Providence of God who supplies their needs through the generous support of the faithful.

Lanherne Nuns

Sort code: 30-98-76

Account: 45742568

At Lanherne Convent

Sundays: 8.30am Low Mass
10am Low/Sung Mass

Monday – Saturday: 8am Mass

Thursdays: 8am and 6.15pm Mass

Rev. Canon Scott Smith
Chaplain of Lanherne Convent
St Mawgan TR8 4ER
mobile : 07366 321039

lanherne@icksp.org.uk

Safeguarding Reps:

Christina Hunt

Sarah Checkley

Confession:

Thursdays: 5.15pm-5.45pm

Fridays and Saturdays after Mass

Holy Angels Torquay

Account Name: ICKSP

Account Details: 40-03-33

Account Number: 12333902

Rev. Canon Scott Tanner, Prior
House of Saint-Richard-Reynolds
Holy Angels Church, Queensway, Torquay
TQ2 6BP

mobile : 07763 277697

torquay@icksp.org.uk

Safeguarding Rep: Katarzyna Adamiak

At Holy Angels

Sundays:

10 -10.15am Confessions

10.30am Sung Mass

5.30pm Vespers & Benediction

Mon. Tues. Thurs. & Fri.

7.30am Lauds & Meditation

8.30am Mass (Mon, Tues, & Thurs.)

12 noon Mass (Friday)

5.30pm Vespers

6pm Adoration (& Confessions)

7pm Compline

Wednesday Mass at 12 noon

Saturday Mass at 8.30am

Plymouth: Sundays at 8.30am