



INSTITUTE OF CHRIST THE KING SOVEREIGN PRIEST

THE SOUL OF THE APOSTOLATE

By Dom J.-B. Chautard



Dom Chautard

Part One – Chapter 2: God Wills That the Life-Principle of Our Work Be Christ Himself

Science is proud of its immense success, and justly so. And yet there is one thing which always has been, and always will be, impossible to it: to create life, to produce, from a chemical laboratory, a grain of corn, a larva. The wholesale discomfiture of the defenders of spontaneous generation shows us, clearly enough, how little there is in these claims. God reserves for Himself the power of creating life.

In the vegetable and animal order, living beings can grow and multiply: but still, their fecundity only operates under definite conditions laid down by the Creator. But as soon as there is question of intellectual life, God reserves this to Himself, and He is the One who directly creates the reasoning soul. And yet there is one other realm which he guards even more jealously still, that of Supernatural life; which flows from the divine life communicated to the humanity of the Incarnate Word. ...

The Incarnation and Redemption establish Jesus as the Source, and the only Source, of this divine life which all men are called upon to share. The essential activity of the Church consists in spreading this life through the Sacraments, Prayer, Preaching, and all other works connected with these.

God does nothing except through His Son. *“All things were made through Him and without Him was made nothing that was made.”* True as this is in the natural order, how much more so is it in the supernatural order, when it is a question of imparting His inner life, and causing men to share in His own nature, making them children of God.

“I am come that they may have life. In Him was life. I am the life.” What precision there is in these words! And what light, in the parable of the vine and the branches, in which the Master develops this truth! With what insistence he strives to impress upon the minds of the Apostles the fundamental principle that **HE ALONE, JESUS, IS THE LIFE**, and the consequence that, in order to share in that life and communicate it to others, they must be grafted on to the God-man.

Men, called to the honor of working with the Savior in transmitting this divine life to souls, ought to consider themselves mere channels, whose function it is to draw from this one and only source.

Failure, on the part of the apostle, to realize this principle, and the illusion that he could produce the slightest trace of supernatural life without borrowing every bit of it from Jesus Christ, would lead us to believe that his ignorance of theology was equaled only by his stupid self-conceit.

If the apostle, while recognizing in theory that the Redeemer is the primary cause of all divine life, were to forget this truth in his actions and, blinded by insane presumption, were to insult Jesus Christ by relying on his own powers, it would be a lesser disorder than the preceding, but one just as insufferable in the sight of God.

To reject the truth, or to ignore it in one's actions, always constitutes an intellectual disorder in doctrine or in practice. It is the denial of a principle on which our conduct ought to be based. Obviously, the disorder will be still further aggravated if the clear light of truth is obscured and obstructed, in the heart of the active laborer, by his opposition, through sin or voluntary lukewarmness, to the God of all light.

Now for a man, in his practical conduct, to go about his active works as if Jesus were not his one and only life-principle, is what Cardinal Mermillod has called the *“HERESY OF GOOD WORKS.”* He uses this expression to stigmatize the apostle who so far forgets himself as to overlook his secondary and subordinate role, and look only to his own personal activity and talents as a basis for apostolic success. Is this not, in practice, a denial of a great part of the Tract on Grace? This conclusion is one that appalls us, at first sight. And yet a little thought will show us that it is only too true.

HERESY IN GOOD WORKS! Feverish activity taking the place of God; grace ignored; human pride trying to thrust Jesus from His throne; supernatural life, the power of prayer, the economy of our redemption relegated, at least in practice, to the realm of pure theory: all this portrays no merely imaginary situation, but one which the diagnosis of souls shows to be very common though in various degrees, in this age of naturalism, when men judge, above all, by appearances, and act as though success were primarily a matter of skillful organization.

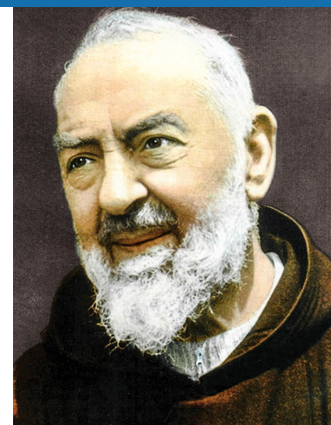
ANNOUNCEMENTS

✦ PADRE PIO GROUP

December 4th – First Saturday Devotions

After Holy Mass at 10:00 am the Blessed Sacrament will be exposed and the Rosary will be prayed together. As an act of reparation to the Immaculate Heart of the Blessed Virgin Mary and in consecrating ourselves to the Immaculate Conception, we will remain thereafter in silence in the presence of the Eucharistic Lord. Benediction at approx. 12:00 Noon.

The Padre Pio Prayer Group at St. Winefride's church invites all friends of the Immaculate Heart to join us afterwards during a social hour in the hall for tea, coffee, biscuits and anything you would be willing to contribute.



CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE 2021

24th of December (Friday):

10:00 am Vigil of Christmas

25th of December (Saturday):

00:00 am Midnight 1st Mass of Christmas

12:30 pm Christmas Mass of the day

26th of December (Sunday):

12.30 pm St. Stephen

Donations Week 08.11.-

14.11.2021

Collection £124.40

Bank transfer £195.00

Total £319.40

Thank you very much!

✦ BILL QUIRK'S 100TH BIRTHDAY

Bill Quirk on his 100th birthday: Bill is shown here with the statue of Our Lady of Walsingham, which was presented to him as a gift from our congregation.



SHREWSBURY WEEKLY SCHEDULE

DAY	DATE	TIME	MASS OF THE DAY	INTENTIONS
Sun	21 st Nov	12:30 pm	26 th and last Sunday after Pentecost	William Connick
Mon	22 nd Nov	10:00 am	St. Cecilia, Virgin & Martyr	Peter Connick
Tue	23 rd Nov	6:30 pm	St. Clement I, Pope & Martyr	Frances Connick RIP
Wed	24 th Nov	10:00 am	St. John of the Cross Confessor & Doctor of the Church	Bob Connick RIP
Thu	25 th Nov	6:30 pm	St. Catherine of Alexandria Virgin & Martyr	YF Huang
Fri	26 th Nov	10:00 am	St. Sylvester, Abbot	Ijen
Sat	27 th Nov	10:00 am	Our Lady of Saturday	Chip
Sun	28 th Nov	12:30 pm	First Sunday of Advent	PI

All Masses (also Adoration and Benediction on Tuesday and Thursday) are at St. Winefride's Church, 187 Crowmere Rd, Shrewsbury SY2 5LA.

Note: Adoration and Benediction on Tuesdays and Thursdays start at 5.30pm before the 6.30pm Mass.

St. Winefride's Presbytery, Mynd Close, Shrewsbury SY2 5RA
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