

April 20, 2021

Good Morning All,

1. Today's Readings: [Tuesday of the Third Week of Easter | USCCB](#)

2. The RE Corner with Jan Heithaus: We often hear of devotions, but not the virtue of devotion, which is today's daughter virtue of justice. It goes hand in hand with religion as something we give with a prompt will to God.

3. Quotes of the Day:

~ "True and substantial devotion consists in serving God without experiencing any sensible consolation. This means serving and loving God for His own sake." *St. Padre Pio*

~ "One single day of devotion is worth more than a thousand years of worldly life." *St. Francis de Sales*

St. Joseph, Pray for Us!

--

Linda McCormick
St. Joseph Catholic Church & School
1200 Cornelia Road
Anderson, SC 29621

Phone: (864) 225-5341, ext. 102

Fax: (864) 225-6432

The Life of Virtue – Devotion



We might hear that someone is devoted to a cause, or their children, or even to their pet animal. What this seems to mean is a readiness to do everything one possibly can for the sake of the other. There is a sense, then, of total dedication to a given end which even amounts to a kind of religious fervor. In fact, this is very close to what St Thomas Aquinas means when he speaks of the virtue of devotion.

The word comes from the Latin *devovere*, which means 'to vow'. As a vow is an act of religion, so St Thomas says that one who is devoted is one who "surrenders himself readily to the service of God" who is our final end and our greatest good. Hence, devotion is essentially an act of religion, and it is an act because it is something that we deliberately choose to do. In St Thomas' language, it is "an act of the will". Hence devotion, properly speaking, is a virtue ultimately directed towards God, and other attitudes which are not so directed are called 'devotion' only by analogy.

Nevertheless, we can see from our non-religious use of the word that devotion is fueled by love. A mother is devoted to her family, an activist to his cause, and a child to her pet rabbit because they love that other. Moreover, love itself is confirmed by the act of devotion. So, St Thomas says, "charity both causes devotion (inasmuch as love makes one ready to serve one's friend) and feeds on devotion. Even so all friendship is safeguarded and increased by the practice and consideration of friendly deeds".

Parish Office Communication

Therefore, devotional acts are an expression of one's love for God, and these acts in turn confirm and strengthen that love. It is thus that we speak of devotion to the Blessed Sacrament, or the Virgin of Guadalupe, or even to the pope. As St Thomas explains, "devotion to God's holy ones, dead or living, does not terminate in them, but passes on to God, in so far as we honor God in His servants".

However, such love which gives rise to devotion, requires us to think first about God and recognize his goodness. So, St Thomas says we need to contemplate the Scriptures and meditate on God's wonderful deeds, for "this consideration wakens love". In recent years there has been a decline in devotion and fervor in parts of the Church. This is not surprising as faith in God fades and people no longer think of Him or love Him enough to be moved to acts of devotion. No wonder too that people's 'devotion' is increasingly diverted from God and the spiritual joy that is the true effect of devotion to other more worldly but transient joys.

How then are we to cultivate the virtue of devotion? Firstly, by contemplating God's goodness and love, through reading the Scriptures and encountering Christ, the living Word of God. Then, as we grow in love for him so we shall express that love in acts of devotion that result in real joy. As St John says: "He who does not love does not know God; for God is love. In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the expiation for our sins" (1 John 4:8-10).

Source: English.op.org