

Jesus † Mary † Joseph

Chapter 7

Vanity in Daily Life

Christ:

My child, vanity is another name for foolish expectation and for useless pretenses. Some people expect too much from the good things of this world. Others pretend to be bigger than they really are and try to attract more attention than they deserve.

2. Vanity of vanities, and all is vanity for those who do not love Me, or refuse to follow My commandments. Nothing is permanent under the sun. When you love anything for its own sake, and not because it helps you do My Will, you are a victim of vanity. Death shall take all these things away from you, and nothing will be left. How wise is the man who appreciates this truth!

3. It is vanity to strive too intently for perishable riches and fix your hopes on them. It is vanity also to be over-eager for honors, or to consider yourself better than others. It is vanity to follow blindly the desires of the flesh and to want things which will bring a great penalty later on.

4. It is vanity to wish for a long life while caring little about living a good life. It is vanity to give your entire attention to the present life without thinking of the life which will come later. It is vanity to love only what is speedily passing away, instead of fixing your heart on Heaven – the home of endless joy.

Think:

If the dead could relive their lives, how differently many of them would value things! Now they know how foolish are many things for which they lived, and worked, and even sinned. The good, however, now enjoy perfect joy and happiness with God in Heaven because they refused to offend Him for any worldly comfort or glory. My life is my choice. Will I try to please God in all things, or will I prefer some earthly satisfaction against His holy Will?

Pray:

Lord, grant me heavenly wisdom, so that I may learn to seek You above everything else. May I find You, enjoy Your presence in my life and love You above everything else. Let me understand all things according to their importance in Your eyes. Grant that I may prudently avoid the flatterer and patiently bear with those who make my life more difficult. It is great wisdom to fight the undue influence of human words, and to keep my eyes on Your holy law. In this way I shall go safely onward along the way that leads to eternal life, unending happiness, and the only lasting success. Amen.

November 2nd

Commemoration of the Faithful Departed

All Souls Day

The Church teaches us that the souls of the just who have left this world with traces of venial sin remain for a time in a place of expiation, where they suffer whatever punishment may be due to their offenses. Even if pardon has been obtained for our sins, satisfaction must be made to God, our Creator, in this world or in the next; for His sanctity has been, as it were, insulted by the self-will of one of His ignoble creatures. The more noble the person offended, the more serious the offense, even according to human laws. It is a dogma of our faith that the suffering souls are relieved by the intercession of the Saints in heaven and by the prayers of the faithful upon earth. To pray for the dead is therefore an act of charity and of piety, certainly obligatory for a Christian who professes to have charity in his heart. We read in Holy Scripture: "It is a holy and wholesome thought to pray for the dead, that they may be loosed from their sins." (II Maccabees 12:46)

When towards the close of the tenth century, Our Lord inspired Saint Odilon, Abbot of Cluny, to establish in his Benedictine Order a general commemoration of all the faithful departed, the practice was soon afterwards adopted by the entire Western Church and has been continued unceasingly to our day. Let us always bear in mind the departed who have died in the love of God, and offer up our prayers and sacrifices to help expiate for them. By showing this mercy to the suffering souls in purgatory, we gain for ourselves very devoted friends, who will in their turn pray for us. We shall then be entitled to be treated with mercy at our departure from this world, and to share more abundantly in the suffrages of the Church, continually offered for all who have fallen asleep in Christ.

Source: Little Pictorial Lives of the Saints, a compilation based on Butler's Lives of the Saints and other sources by John Gilmary Shea (Benziger Brothers: New York, 1894).

Daily Thoughts and Prayers for Our Beloved Dead

First Day

During this month our foremost thought is to recall to mind our beloved dead. We shall think of you, pray with you, labor with you, and shall give to the poor, for the repose of your souls, that portion of the fruits of our daily labors which was formerly yours.

Prayer: Our Father. 3 Hail Marys. Glory Be. De Profundis.

O God, the Creator and Redeemer of all the faithful, grant to the souls of the faithful departed, the full remission of all their sins, that through the help of pious supplications, they may obtain that pardon which they have always desired, who livest and reignest world without end. Amen.

Ejaculation: Eternal Father, I offer Thee the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ in reparation for my sins, in behalf of the Blessed Souls in Purgatory, and for the needs of Holy Church.
(500 days)

Second Day

Is not the memory of the dead sweet to the heart, and is it not truly consoling to gather about us in thought the family dispersed by death?

Prayer: Our Father. 3 Hail Marys. Glory Be. De Profundis.

Most compassionate Jesus, have mercy on the souls in Purgatory, for whose redemption Thou didst take upon Thyself the nature of mankind and die an ignominious death. Mercifully hear their pleadings – look with pity on the tears which they now shed before Thee, and by virtue of their passion release them from the pain due unto their sins. Most pitiful Jesus, let Thy Precious Blood flow down into Purgatory and refresh and revive the captive souls suffering there. Stretch out unto them Thy strong right hand, and lead them to a place of refreshment, light and peace. Amen.

Ejaculation: Jesus. (300 days)

De Profundis (Psalm 129)

- 1 Out of the depths I have cried to Thee, O Lord:
- 2 Lord, hear my voice. Let Thy ears be attentive to the voice of my supplication.
- 3 If Thou, O Lord, wilt mark iniquities: Lord, who shall stand it.
- 4 For with Thee there is merciful forgiveness: and by reason of Thy law, I have waited for Thee, O Lord. My soul hath relied on His Word:
- 5 My soul hath hoped in the Lord.
- 6 From the morning watch even until night, let Israel hope in the Lord.
- 7 Because with the Lord there is mercy: and with Him plentiful redemption.
- 8 And He shall redeem Israel from all his iniquities.

Source: Douay Rheims Bible, Imp. 1899

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