

Meditation 2014-03-03
Ferial Day following Quinquagesima Sunday
Meditation Theme: “Do I really have Charity?”

Place yourself in the presence of Jesus Christ. Make sure He knows that every thought, action, and experience of today is dedicated exclusively to Him.

The Scenario: From the Epistle of Quinquagesima Sunday’s Mass

BRETHREN: If I speak with the tongues of men, and of angels, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal. And if I should have prophecy and should know all mysteries, and all knowledge, and if I should have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing. And if I should distribute all my goods to feed the poor, and if I should deliver my body to be burned, and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing. 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; beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things. Charity never falleth away: whether prophecies shall be made void, or tongues shall cease, or knowledge shall be destroyed. For we know in part, and we prophesy in part. But when that which is perfect is come, that which is in part shall be done away. When I was a child, I spoke as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child. But, when I became a man, I put away the things of a child. We see now through a glass in a dark manner; but then face to face. Now I know in part; but then I shall know even as I am known. And now there remain faith, hope, and charity, these three: but the greatest of these is charity.

Point 1. – Saint Paul instructs us concerning the cardinal virtue of Charity. He tells us what it is, but he pays special attention to what it is not!

Point 2. – Saint Paul explains that having Charity is crucial. You cannot get to Heaven if you don’t have it and do what it demands.

Point 3. – Saint Paul tells us to “grow up.” See things clearly as an adult should. Understand that when we get to Heaven we shall see God “face to face” in charity.

Meditation: Charity is the most important of the virtues. Faith, Hope, and Charity are the three cardinal virtues and, unlike other virtues which I do not possess but can only practice, I do possess these, and I can never have too much of any of them. I can be too prudent, too patient, too sympathetic, but I can never have too much Charity.

What does Charity mean to me? Is it a “warm and fuzzy” feeling? Is it an impulse to be nice? Is “nice” part of Charity? Is Charity what makes me “seem charitable” to others? Does Charity require me to do certain things, or to do them in a certain way? Should Charity always make me feel good about what I have done? Does Charity ever require me to do things I’d rather not do? Does Charity allow me to discriminate between those to whom I am charitable? Does Charity require me to do different things for different people? Is it Charity to warn a sinner that he is

bound for Hell? Is it Charity to tell unbelievers that they really do not have to believe? Is it Charity to ignore people who have no effect on my life? Is Charity satisfied by donations to worthy causes? If Charity is doing what Charity demands, what does it demand of me? If Charity demands more of me than it appears to demand of someone else, am I allowed to think it unfair? What can I do to meet these demands? Does my “attitude” require a radical change? If I need to be “more charitable,” how much more is “more?” Is there a yardstick against which I can measure charity? Will I ever be charitable enough? Does it have to be part of everything I do?

Colloquy: Take a minute or two to converse with God, in any of His three Persons, or the Triune God complete in Himself. Tell Him what you have learned from your meditation, and thank Him for it.

Hold the Gain: Consider what you can do to keep the fruits of your meditation. Try to plan how you can think of them through the day, and through the days ahead. Come up with ways you can apply your conclusions to what you do in your everyday life, conversations you engage in, the choice of what movie to watch, what books you choose to read.