

Attaining Sanctity in Today's Time of Crisis

The great means to attain holiness is: **love of God**. Here are five specific ways by which we express our love of God. I chose these five because:

- (a) they are fundamental ways of loving God in general,
- (b) they are particularly relevant to today's crisis of faith, and
- (c) they are particularly relevant to the specific challenges and temptations that traditional Catholics are facing.

❶ Love of God: Love for the Truth

🔔 God is a God of perfect truth, i.e. all that He reveals to man is true.

✚ To love God above all things is to love the truth above all things.

Christ *is* the truth and the truth makes man free.

✚ Jesus sanctifies man in the truth.

✚ **Holiness** can also be said to consist in being conformed, united, and consecrated to **the truth**.

➔ We are living through a terrible crisis of *truth* in our times. In order to grow in holiness, especially in this current crisis, we must be faithful to the truth.

✚ God does not change. Truth does not change.

✚ **If we wish to save our souls, we must persevere in the true Faith**

In the same dogmatic truths of Faith which the Church has always taught! We must not allow ourselves to be deceived by the lying novelties of a new theology invented by a faux magisterium disconnecting itself from the perennial Faith of the Church.

➔ The truth is not based on what a particular priest, bishop or even Pope might say today, but only on what the Church has always taught and believed. Thus, we have to study!

★ Here are some urgent recommendations:

- ❶ Above all, be faithful to the Traditional Latin Mass—*lex orandi*
[learn more about the Mass!]
- ❷ Be faithful to the defined teachings of Holy Mother Church—*lex credenda*
[study, e.g. read *Crucial Truths to Save Your Soul* by Fr. Nicholas Gruner]
- ❸ Be very vigilant when it comes to members of the current Magisterium; at the same time, pray, sacrifice, and do penance for the Holy Father (and for bishops and priests)
- ❹ Be devoted to the Blessed Virgin Mary and learn about her Message at Fatima

② Love of God: Love of His Holy Will

✠ St. Alphonsus teaches: “the perfect love of God means the complete union of our will with God’s” and “The greatest glory we can give to God is to do His will in everything.”

✠ **Holiness** consists in conforming my will to the Will of God (not in understanding God’s designs).

➔ How do we ensure that we remain *actively faithful* to God’s holy Will in our daily lives and in the concrete decisions which we make every single day?

(1) The first and most fundamental point is to always obey **God’s Law**.

(2) We must also always abide by the **Deposit of Faith**.

(3) After **God’s Law**, we also must obey all just and right human laws, ecclesial and secular.

However, no human law - whether ecclesial or secular - may ever justly violate Divine Law or Natural Law. If they do, they have not the force of law, and one is morally obligated to follow the higher authority. In order to remain actively faithful to God’s Will, one must **always** first follow Divine Law. In order to make this necessary discernment, serious study is required.

(4) We must **study the faith** well (especially in these times of diabolical disorientation, so as not to be deceived).

(5) Learn the **duties of your state in life** and remain faithful to them.

(6) Practice trustful surrender (self-abandonment) to **Divine Providence**.

Basic principles:

(1) Everything which comes to pass has been *foreseen by God from all eternity*, and has been willed or at least permitted by Him.

(2) Nothing can be willed or permitted by God that does not contribute to *the end He purposed in creating*, i.e. the manifestation of His goodness and infinite perfections.

(3) Rom 8:28, “And we know that to them that love God, all things work together unto good, to such as, according to His purpose, are called to be saints.”

(7) Lovingly accepting all that God sends at each moment, especially *suffering*. If He sends us suffering, it is because He loves us and gives it for our own good.

(8) Practice conformity to the will of God in *all* things!

- i. In the Natural Incidents of our Daily Lives.
- ii. In Public Calamities.
- iii. In the Cares and Difficulties of Family Life.
- iv. In Reverses of Fortune.
- v. In Poverty and Hardships.
- vi. In Adversity and Disgrace.
- vii. In Defects of Nature.
- viii. In Sickness and Infirmity.
- ix. In Death and the Manner of It.
- x. In the Loss of Spiritual Consolation.
- xi. In Interior Trials.
- xii. In Spiritual Favors.

③ Love of Christ: Love for His Church

- † We must accustom ourselves to see Christ Himself in the Church.
- † Christ so sustains the Church, and so in a certain sense lives in the Church, that she is, as it were, *another Christ*.
- † Christ and the Church form but one mystical person, that is the *whole Christ*.
- † “*And I live, now not I; but Christ liveth in me.*” (Gal 2:20)
- † Consider Pope Pius XII’s Encyclical Letter, “On the Mystical Body of Christ,” *Mystici Corporis*, June 29, 1943
 - ↪ We should cherish exceedingly the Sacraments with which holy Mother Church sustains our life, the solemn ceremonies which she celebrates for our solace and our joy, the sacred chant and the liturgical rites by which she lifts our minds up to heaven, and also the sacramentals and all those exercises of piety by which she consoles the hearts of the faithful and sweetly imbues them with the Spirit of Christ.
 - ↪ We are commanded to obey her laws and her moral precepts, even if at times they are difficult to our fallen nature; to bring our rebellious body into subjection through voluntary mortification; and at times we are warned to abstain even from harmless pleasures.
 - ↪ Nor does it suffice to love this Mystical Body for the glory of its divine Head and for its heavenly gifts; we must love it with an effective love as it appears in this our mortal flesh - made up, that is, of weak human elements, even though at times they are little fitted to the place which they occupy in this venerable Body.

④ Love of Christ: Love for His Cross

See Sermon “Christ, the Cross and Holiness”

⑤ Love of Christ: Love for His Mother

- † The popes and saints clearly teach the importance and power of the **Rosary**.
- † **Sr. Lucia of Fatima** stated, “The Most Holy Virgin, in these times has given a new efficacy to the recitation of the Rosary to such an extent that ... there is no problem, I tell you, no matter how difficult it is, that we cannot resolve by the prayer of the Holy Rosary. With the Holy Rosary we will save ourselves. We will sanctify ourselves. We will console Our Lord and obtain the salvation of many souls.”
- † **How to pray the Rosary well:** [from St. Louis de Montfort’s *The Secret of the Rosary*]
 - (1) With a **pure heart**
 - (2) With **attention**
 - (3) With **meditation**
 - (4) Vigorously **fight distractions**
 - (5) In a **pious way**
 - (6) With **love**
 - (7) With **reverence**
 - (8) In a **community**
 - (9) With **faith, humility and confidence**
 - (10) With **perseverance**

APPENDIX:

The principal means to perfection are:

slightly adapted from *The True Spouse of Jesus Christ* by St. Alphonsus Liguori

- (1) A strong and ardent desire to become a saint.
- (2) Great confidence in Jesus Christ and in His holy Mother.
- (3) To avoid every deliberate sin or defect, and after a fault not to lose courage, but to make an act of contrition for it, and to resume your ordinary occupations.
- (4) To cut off all attachment to creatures, to self-will, and self-esteem.
- (5) To resist continually your own inclinations.
- (6) To observe with exactness the rules of religion, however unimportant they may appear.
- (7) To perform your ordinary duties with all possible perfection.
- (8) To receive Holy Communion often, meditate, and practice mortification.
- (9) To prefer, on all occasions, those actions which are most agreeable to God, and most opposed to self-love.
- (10) To receive all crosses and contradictions with joy and gladness from the hands of God.
- (11) To love and serve those who persecute you.
- (12) To spend every moment of your time for God.
- (13) To offer to God all your actions in union with the merits of Jesus Christ.
- (14) To make a special oblation of yourself to God, that he may dispose of you and of all you possess in whatever way He pleases.
- (15) To confess continually before God that His pleasure and love are the only objects of your wishes.
- (16) Lastly, and above all, to pray continually, and to recommend yourself, with unbounded confidence, to Jesus Christ and to His Virgin Mother, and to entertain a special affection and tenderness towards Mary.

General Means for the Attainment of Perfection:

Taken from *The Catechism Explained* by Spirago-Clarke

1. Fidelity in small things
2. A habit of self-control
3. Abstinence from all that is superfluous, especially in regard to eating and drinking
4. Order and regularity
5. Unremitting prayer
6. Frequent confession and communion
7. Reading attentively the life of Our Lord and the lives of the saints, and meditation on the truths of religion
8. Love of solitude

See also **Sixteen Rules of a Christian Life**

from *Think Well On It* by Bishop Richard Challoner