



10 – 16 Feb, 2018

Piety, part 1

**‘Blessed are those who do His commandments,
that they may have the right to the tree of life,
and may enter through the gates into the city’ Rev 22:14**

Recalling ‘Fear of the Lord’, one of the gifts of the Holy Spirit

- † Fear of the Lord is worshipping the Creator not the creation
- † Fear of the Lord does not compromise
- † Fearing God is considering Him above all
- † Fearing God is never wanting to be separated from Him, Who is Love

The gift of piety

- † Saint Gregory the Great said, ‘Through fear of the Lord, we rise to piety’
- † Piety is to give filial worship to God precisely as our Father and to relate with all people as children of the same Father

Jesus Christ, the pious

- † When we think of Jesus, we see the beloved Son of God the Father Who brought to mankind a new revelation about Godly Fatherhood
- † Jesus always did what was pleasing to the Father (*Joh 8:29*)
- † All that Jesus, the Savior, did was in obedience to the Father ‘*Jesus said to them, “My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to finish His work” Joh 4:34*

Piety and ‘Abba’

- † *‘For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, ‘Abba, Father.’ The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together’ (Rom 8:14-17)*
- † ‘Abba’ is a translation of ‘daddy.’ The same holds for the ‘Our Father,’ whereby Jesus Himself taught us to pray, addressing His Father as ‘Abba’

Piety is obedience to the Lord

- † Piety is childlike love leading us to please our Heavenly Father
- † It is loving obedience to the teachings of Christ and His commandments

- † Then one approaches prayer and worship not as a task or burden but as an act of joyful love
- † The Bible then becomes a source of life
- † Obedience is following God's Way, right away, all the way

Piety is love to God's children

- † Piety is loving and having affection for 'God's children and friends'
 - the saints and the angels
 - the Church and its shepherds
 - all those around me, even my enemies

Piety is to sanctify our words, our work, our activities, our friends, studies and all that we do (1 Cor 10:31; Col 3:12-17)

- † Whatever we do let it be an offering to the Lord, remembering the prayer in the Divine liturgy 'We offer You Your own, from Your own, in all things and for all things'
- † *'And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him' Col 3:17*

Piety is the compass to our spiritual life (1 Joh 2:3, Luk 9:35, Rev 22:14)

- † In His Sermon on the Mount, which was an introduction to His teachings, Jesus declared that God was our Father and asked us to be perfect as our Heavenly Father is perfect (*Mat 5:48*)
- † In this context, Jesus explained to the crowds that practices such as prayer, fasting, almsgiving, were to be done only out of our love for God and not for any worldly recognition (*Isa 58; Luk 18:9-14*)
- † *'Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'* *Mat 7:21-23*

Piety is keeping the first commandment (Dan 6)

- † The ultimate concern of godly people is to act in response to God's mercy and kindness and so they set up acts of worship that express their filial attachment to their God and their faithful obedience to Him
- † Daniel, the prophet, was pious and faithful. When the governors were jealous of him and decided to set up a plan to remove him, they could not find any fault in him (*Rev 12:9-11*)
 - They could find a charge 'against him concerning the law of His God'. They convinced King Darius to make a decree
- † The decree was a difficult experience to Daniel whereby he really upheld his loyalty to His God

† He overcame the trial successfully because he preferred death rather than betraying the true God

† As Saint Dominic says, 'Death but not sin'

Bibliography

1. Saunders https://www.catholicherald.com/Faith/Your_Faith/Straight_Answers/The_gift_of_piety/

Legend

 Refers to mandatory readings

Verse to memorize

'Jesus answered and said to him, 'If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him' John 14:23

During the coming week, let us pray expectantly

1. seeking the Lord's will to be done in Lebanon
2. for CrossTalk to find a locale
3. for David, Gisele, Habib and Karim
4. to become more of saints and less of sinners
5. to seek the Lord in every word I say, every act I do and every thought I think
6. to help in building His Kingdom by building His Church on earth
7. to deny ourselves, carry our cross and follow Him
8. to thank Him for creating us and each one around us, on His image and likeness, and choosing us to reveal His splendor
9. to all the sick
10. to all those in prison
11. to the unity of the Christians
12. to one another to be honest and not lack integrity
13. to put all that we have in the Lord's hands trusting His management
14. to all the Christians who are being persecuted, and to those who are persecuting them
15. to all families, that the Lord unites the parents together in His Name and stops all fights
16. to the situation in Lebanon, Syria, Egypt, Iraq and the whole region

During this coming week, we will lift the Protestant Church in prayer

الصلاة الربانية
أبانا الذي في السموات
ليتقدس اسمك
ليأت ملكوتك
ليتك مشيئتك
كما في السماء
كذلك على الأرض
خبزنا كفافنا أعطنا اليوم
واغفر لنا ذنوبنا
كما تغفر نحن أيضاً
للمذنبين إلينا
ولا تُدخلنا في تجربة
لكن نجنا من الشرير
لأن لك الملك والقوة والمجد
إلى الأبد
أمين

قانون الايمان
نحن نؤمن بالله واحد
أب قادر على كل شيء
خالق السماء والأرض وكل ما يرى وما لا يرى
وبرب واحد يسوع المسيح،
ابن الله الوحيد،
المولود من الأب قبل كل الدهور
إله من إله،
نور من نور،
إله حق من إله حق
مولود غير مخلوق،
ذو جوهر واحد مع الأب
هو الذي به كان كل شيء،
الذي من أجلنا نحن البشر
ومن أجل خلاصنا نزل من السماء
وتجسد بالروح القدس من مريم العذراء
وصار إنساناً
وصُلبَ عنا على عهد بيلاطس البنطي
وتألم وقبر وقام أيضاً في اليوم الثالث حسب الكتب
وصعد إلى السماء
وهو جالس عن يمين الأب
وسبأتي أيضاً بمجد ليدين الأحياء والأموات
الذي ليس لملكه نهاية
ونؤمن بالروح القدس، الرب المحيي
المُنْبِت من الأب والإبن
المسجود له والمُجَد مع الأب والإبن
الذي تكلم بالأنبياء
ونعتقد بكنيسة واحدة، مقدسة، جامعة، رسولية
ونعترف بمعمودية واحدة لمغفرة الخطايا
وننتظر قيامة الموتى وحياة الدهر الآتي
أمين