



Priestly People

SERVANTS OF THE PARACLETE

November 2018 - Vol. 34 No. 11



There is power in gentleness we must discover. It is a power that touches hearts, a power that changes people from within the depths of their souls.

The Divine Fruits

Part Nine

Gentleness

Gentleness or meekness, they are synonymous, is a Divine trait which molds us into the image of Jesus Himself: ***“Learn of Me,”*** He said, ***“for I am meek and humble of heart”*** (Mt 11:29)

We do not just decide to be gentle. This is a work of the Holy Spirit in our life and the more spiritually mature we become, the gentler we are. However, there are some things we can do to cultivate gentleness in our character: take time for tenderness, think kindly thoughts, and be considerate in our dealing with others.

There are several qualities which characterize a person who is meek. He is approachable: easy to have contact with, to talk to, to make inquiry of, he is open to the opinions of others and he welcomes instructions.

Again, one who is meek is alert to his environment; the slightest movement in another’s spirit does not go unnoticed by him. Almost immediately he can detect the true significance in a situation – whether it is right or wrong. Whatever the circumstance, his spirit readily responds.

Meekness is daughter of the Gift of Fortitude, since by this Gift the irascible appetite is disposed to receive the influence of the Holy Spirit. The soul which exercises only the virtue of meekness restrains its irritation over some offense; but when gentleness is perfected in the gift of fortitude, as a fruit of the Holy Spirit, it not only renounces vengeance, but with marvelous serenity rejoices in the injury received.

To those who have attained such perfect gentleness Jesus has promised the earth as a reward: ***“Blessed are the gentle, they shall possess the earth”*** (Mt 5:4)

What does this possession of the earth mean? There is only one reward of holy works; GOD!

Possession implies tranquility and solidity; to possess the earth, then, is to enjoy eternal good in peace and with certainty.



“Nothing is so strong as true Gentleness

and

Nothings is so Gentle as real strength”

St. Francis DeSales

DIVINE GENTLENESS

Fr. John Hardin SJ

Gentleness is the fruit of the Holy Spirit that empowers us to restrain the passion of anger. Over the centuries gentleness has been variously described, sometime poetically, sometimes theologically.

Wherever anger flares up, gentleness calms down; where anger is a bursting flame, gentleness is a soothing rain; where anger is a bursting flame, gentleness is a soothing rain; where anger asserts itself and crushes, gentleness embraces and quiets and relieves.

Yet, as we hear descriptions of gentleness, we are likely to make the mistake, as does much of the modern world, of identifying gentleness with weakness. A gentle person is a meek person, so most people think that a gentle person is a weak person. It is just the opposite. In order to be truly gentle – and that does not mean soft or sentimental – one must be strong.

Only a strong person can be gentle, because gentleness restrains strength by love, whether it is strength of body which could destroy physically or strength of will that could crush volitionally or strength of mind which could devastate intellectually. But the motive power behind gentleness is always love, love of the other for whose sake I restrain myself. There are, then, two qualities that belong to the meaning of gentleness: strength and love.

Christ practiced His gentleness from the womb of His Mother. No objections by Mary or Joseph are recorded about having to trek the long miles to Bethlehem.

The Christmas scene is a study in gentleness when we realize that behind that crib there are so many reasons for being angry with a proud Caesar, who forced them and no doubt thousands of others to travel just to sate his pride. But, no.

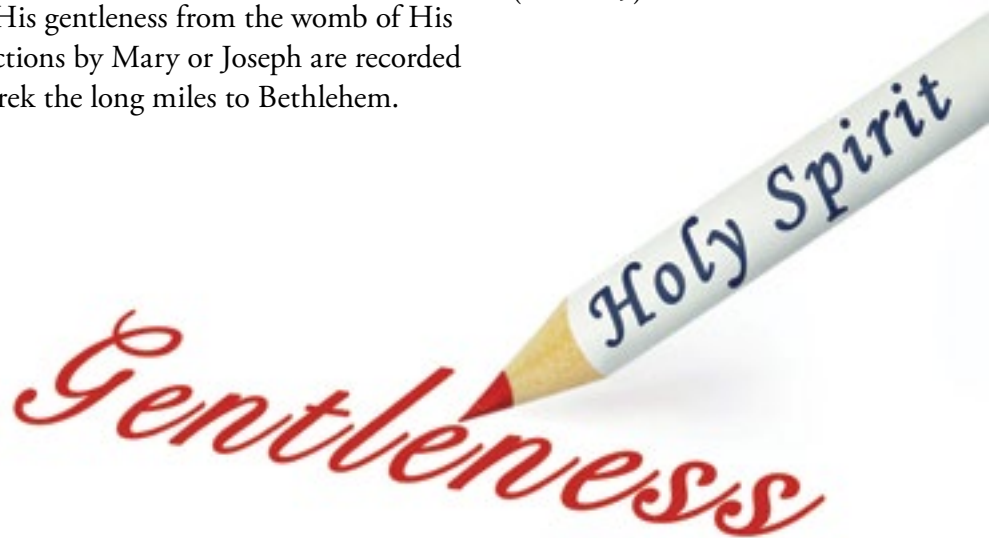
Then in his public life, the Savior was gentle with so many irritating people. That is almost a description of the twelve apostles. How many reasons they gave Him to be annoyed, from Peter on down; and Peter perhaps more than anyone else. Jesus was forbearing, kind, understanding, repeating again and again His ways, explaining over and over again His truths.

He was gentle with sinners: Magdalene at His feet, the woman taken in adultery. He was gentle with crowds, with the children: ***“Let the little children come to Me”*** (Mt 19:14) And most tellingly, in the Garden of Gethsemane, Christ was even gentle to the traitor who kissed Him.

In His Passion, until He expired on the Cross, He was gentle, forgiving to those who had crucified Him. And His last dying act was an act of gentle mercy to the thief at His side. How much we have to learn, and we must learn it from the Master, from the One who said:

“Learn of Me, for I am meek and humble of heart and you will find rest for your souls”

(Mt 11:29)





Servants of the Paraclete
PO Box 9
Cedar Hill, MO 63016

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

November
Newsletter

NON PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
ST. LOUIS, MO
PERMIT NO. 3252



MASS STIPENDS

We appreciate the many mass stipends that we receive. We thank you for supporting that part of our ministry. The Servants of the Paraclete receive mass stipends from our donors and they look forward to celebrating liturgy with those who offer masses for loved ones, friends and family members.

Thank you for supporting our Mass Stipend Ministry!

Name of the person to be remembered in a mass celebrated by a Servant of the Paraclete

living deceased

Please send an acknowledgement card on my behalf to:

Name:

Address:

City, State, Zip:

You will receive acknowledgement of the mass stipend donation in your donor thank you letter. No need to send an acknowledgement card to yourself if you are the donor.

Please complete the mass stipend form and return to the Servants of the Paraclete Development Office.

Servants of the Paraclete • PO Box 9 • Cedar Hill, MO 63016

**DEVELOPMENT
OFFICE**

**Marian Wolaver • 636-274-5226 x303 • mwolaver@theservants.org
PO Box 9 • Cedar Hill, MO 63016**