



Priestly People

SERVANTS OF THE PARACLETE

January 2019 - Vol. 35 No. 1



The church of San Francisco de la Montaña in Veraguas, Panama

Panama is hosting the 34th Catholic Church's World Youth Day in January 2019. "I am the servant of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word" is the major theme of this event. Other themes that will dominate World Youth Days are migration, indigenous people, environment and the role of women.

That young people; especially in Latin America, follow the example of Mary and respond to the call of the Lord to communicate the joy of the Gospel to the world.

– Pope Francis

The Divine Fruits

Parts Ten & Eleven

Modesty and Self-Control

Modesty, the tenth fruit of the Holy Spirit, is both within and without: modesty of bearing, modesty of conduct; of dress, of demeanor, a sensitive regard for others in all that is due from us to them, which keeps us from obtrusiveness and from transgressing the delicate consideration which is their right.

Christian modesty requires that nothing in our gait or posture or clothing scandalizes or offends anyone, but that everything about us manifest our dignity as Christians. St. Paul states that the Christian should be the “aroma of Christ for God among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing” (2 Cor. 2: 15), which is communicated to all who come in contact with him.

In other words, our bodily actions and posture should be such as are proper to the follower of Christ so that each of our lives will be a testimony which leads others to love God by the example of virtue, as Christ recommends when He says: “so let your light shine before men that they may see your good works and glorify your Father who is in heaven” (Mt 5:16).

When St. Paul says, in his Epistle to the Philippians: ***“Let your moderation be known to all men”*** (4:5), he is not referring simply to the way we should bear ourselves, but to the norm of moderation and sweetness by which all our actions should be inspired. Therefore, Christian modesty governs the eyes, that they may never willfully gaze upon any tempting or sinful object, the ears, to the degree that a good Christian, filled with the fruit of modesty, will not only refrain from listening to injurious or evil speech, but will not listen to the curiosities and novelties of the world which are of no concern to him; and the tongue,

for we read in Proverbs: “Death and Life are in the use of the tongue: (Pr. 18:21).

In order to control the tongue in a Christian manner, we should be attentive to four things: what we say, how we say it, when we say it and why we say it. We should keep before us the words of St. Paul: “Let no evil speech proceed from your mouth, but only that which is good, to the edification of the faith, that it may administer grace to the hearers” (Eph 4:29)

Since the imagination is the instigator of the passions and is itself very difficult to control, Christian modesty will also keep a watchful custody over this faculty. There should be a great custody over the imagination as there is over the tongue, lest we “exchange the glory of God for a worthless imagining” (cf. Rm 1: 20-24)

People do not see the interior, but only the exterior, and it is that which moves and edifies them, and preaches better than words. It is told of St. Francis of Assisi that he said one day to his companion, “Let us preach,” ***and they went out, took a turn in the city, and returned home. His companion said to him: “But, father, are we not going to preach?” “We have already preached,” Francis answered, “it is no use walking anywhere to preach unless we preach as we walk.”***

Self-Control is the eleventh fruit of the Holy Spirit. Our lives are like rivers, either useful in their energies or destructive in their force. We can view the majesty of a plummeting waterfall channeled to bring electricity to a dark community or irrigation to a parched land, and feel a sense of appreciation. Or, we can see a swirling undisciplined stream gushing out of its banks, eating away valuable farm land and creating havoc which years of labor cannot right, and feel frustration.

RESPECT

This usefulness or destruction is not just in the water itself, but in how it is channeled. Similarly, useful and meaningful lives can only come from self-controlled hearts which channel their sensitive appetites of passions, of which the basic ones are: love, desire, joy, hate, aversion, sorrow, hope, despair, courage, fear and anger.

However, self-control, or temperance, is not just the outward sign of a well-disciplined, well channeled life. ***Self-control, as the fruit of the Holy Spirit, goes to the heart of the soul and is the very character of a person, the very motive of the soul.***

David, who learned discipline from bitter experience, prayed, ***“Let the words of my mouth, and the***

meditation of my heart be acceptable in Thy sight, O Lord, my strength and my Redeemer” (Ps 19:14). This is real temperance. There is the outward discipline, the watch over the words of his mouth, but also that of the heart, of the soul. David pleads that his very thoughts and motives will be pleasing to God. When we possess this motivation, as David prayed, we remain true regardless of circumstances or environment.

St. Paul writes” ***“Put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh”*** (Rom 13:14). This is a higher plane of living, charged with the presence of the indwelling Spirit. On this plane, our life becomes more than self-controlled, it becomes Christ-controlled.

Discipline is that by which a man pulls and tightens the strings on the violin of his heart until they give forth true melodies.

– Fr. Gerald sP

“A new command I give to you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another”

John 13: 34-35



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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

January
 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**