



Priestly People

SERVANTS OF THE PARACLETE

May 2018 - Vol. 34 No. 5

Ermo della Vita Eterna

Hermitage of Eternal Life

Siena Italy



“We are called upon to be traveling companions of the Good Samaritan – to set up inns.”

– Fr. Gerald sP Maxim #52

The Divine Fruits

Part Three

PEACE

The Fruit of the Spirit is PEACE

St. Thomas Aquinas has written that peace, which is third among the Fruits of the Holy Spirit, is the perfection of joy. It is the singular pleasure that we experience when we taste the joys of our soul in their fullness.

As soon as a soul, by a generous effort of charity and a faithful correspondence with the attraction of grace, has made a firm resolution of refusing nothing to God, and of giving itself to Him forever, to be and to do as He pleases in time and in Eternity, from that moment God fills that soul with an ineffable peace, a peace

never tasted before. In fact, the height of this peace and the height of perfection are one and the same thing.

To possess the Fruit of the Spirit which is peace, then, is to place oneself with confidence in God's hands. To judge all things in the relation they bear to God and to be disturbed by nothing whatsoever except that which would give Him pain. This peace, since it does not reside in the feelings, but in the soul, can coexist with the sharpest pain, the utmost bewilderment, the agony of compassion, because the soul imbued with the Fruit of the Holy Spirit that is peace is anchored in God.

Divine Peace

Fr. Gerald SP

Our meditation will deal with the maintenance of peace, a peace well summarized by the words of our Lord: ***“Behold, I am with you all days even to the consummation of the world” (Mt 28: 20)***

This reality of Christ's presence among us is the source of all peace! God intends it that way, for He does not want us to find permanent satisfaction in merry-go-rounds or “tonics” or ice cream or musicals, He wants us to find our joy and our peace in Him.

“EGO SUM” I am here! This realization of the Divine Presence cannot be overestimated. God is here, right now, right here among us. Out of this truth there

should flow into our hearts a depth of tranquility, an impenetrable stronghold of serenity. There should be in our souls one supreme point of peace in the realization that though high winds come, winter or summer, storm or flood, fire or war, nothing shall separate us from the peace of God which is in Christ Jesus.

God is the beginning and end of all peace. He lives within us, redeemed by His Love: Jesus Christ. And, like tired little children, we should live with our heads resting on the knees of Jesus Christ saying when He asks if we have anything bothering us: “No, Lord, how could I have anything bothering me when I am with You and You are with me?”



Christ's Peace

Father Gerald sP talked of Christ's Peace in his conferences to both the Servants of the Paraclete and to the Handmaids of the Precious Blood.

“Peace! O dear Fathers, first we must find that peace and establish it in Christ in our own souls, and then we must give it to our fellow priests. The turbulent heart, the heart that is warring against itself or against God, is not at peace. The grace of God is a tranquil heart. For peace, there must have been surrender to God. These disciples to whom our Lord came had surrendered themselves to God; that's why they were in the Cenacle. That's why you are here, because you have surrendered to God. All you have to do is make that surrender complete and you have the answer to life.”

“Therefore, if only we can live by faith. See what happens – the very things that are making problems in your souls and in souls today, the very things that ordinarily make of a good Christian, make their soul a pincushion: This misunderstanding, that difficulty, that meanness of a neighbor, that coldness of a relative, that selfishness of a member of the family. All these things that make the soul a pincushion can, by the spirit of faith in the Holy Ghost, can make the soul a beautiful Christian...Where God is planting not only the little white Snowdrops of our joy, but the deep, dark, blood red roses...the thorny stems that tomorrow will bear the most beautiful of all flowers of the human soul, the blood red roses, the full blooming roses of perfect charity.”

“So, if a soul has faith, and will pray to the Holy Spirit of God, it will have at least a certain peace amid the trials and contradictions of life. Whether it is cold or warm, whether it has things to its liking or not, whether it has food or raiment and obedience's that are what they would wish...Or, contrary to what they would wish, all the little up and downs of life, all the little trials of life, in the tediousness of a long winter evening, or the chill of a winter morning, just the monotony of living...All these things will become as so many little golden grains gathered up and offered... even though they be washed in our tears...are offered joyously to the Lord. But, for this we have to love God! So all the problems of life reduce themselves to this – that we learn to love God.”

Peace



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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

May
 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**