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 ware, 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 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?”
“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.”
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