

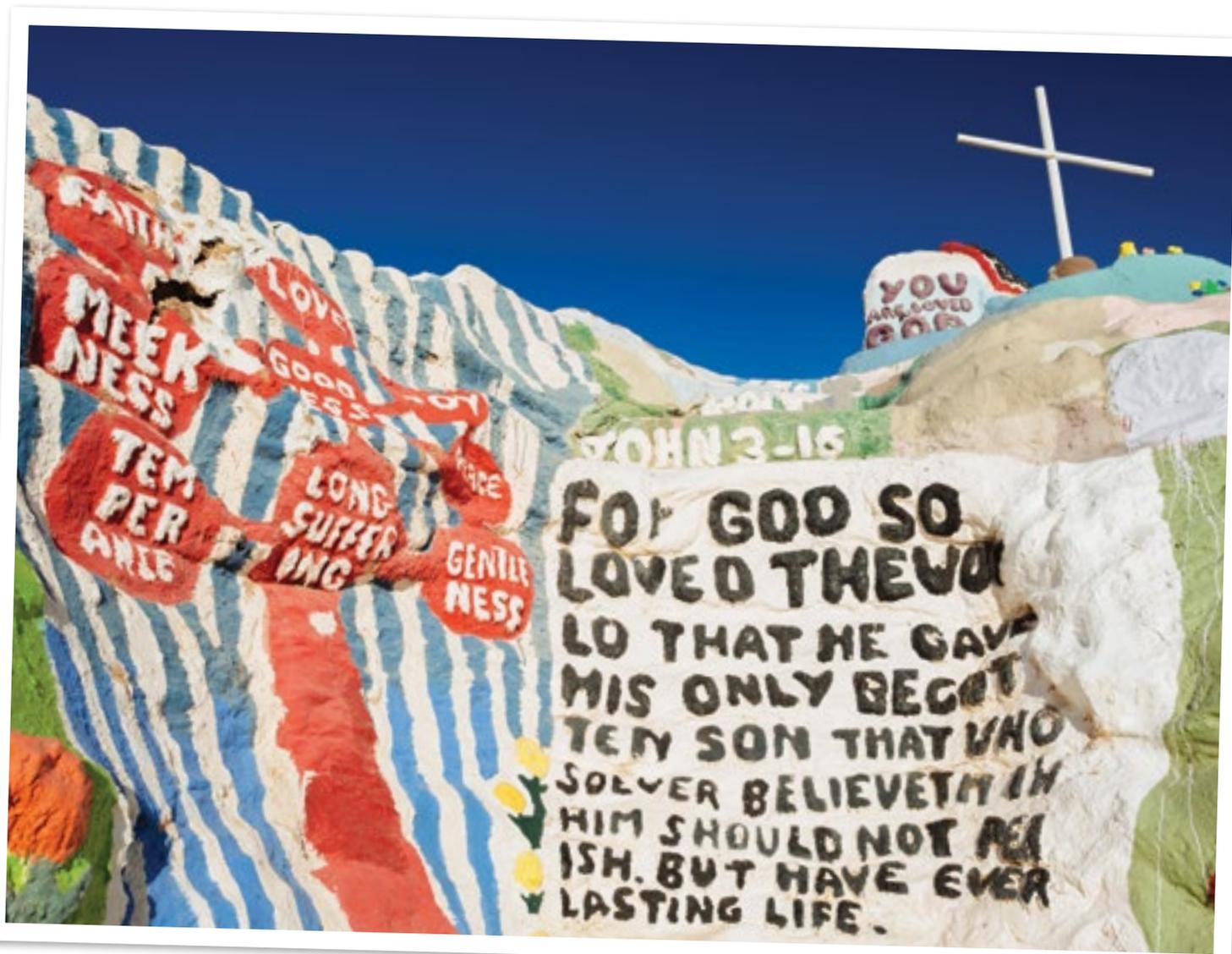


Priestly People

SERVANTS OF THE PARACLETE

September 2018 - Vol. 34 No. 9

GOD LOVES EACH OF US!



The Divine Fruits

Part Six

Goodness

The Fruit of the Spirit is Goodness

Goodness, which is the Fruit of the Holy Spirit, is an energetic inclination to benefit others, a nobility of thought and feeling which raises a soul above the things of this earth, and at the same time give it a certain tenderness of heart which makes it deeply sensible to the suffering and need of others. It is the perpetual radiance of a loving heart which, in its dealings with all who are round about, looks kindly upon them and judges gently of their faults.

Goodness is the mother of kindness and its essence consists in the inclination which leads us to oblige others and communicate to them what we possess, while kindness which we earlier discussed is the carrying out of this inclination born of goodness.

In its original Greek form “goodness” which is the Fruit of the Holy Spirit, carries with it a certain character of perfection, nobility, rightness, even beauty. The Good Shepherd is not just the very kind, devoted, attentive, conscientious Shepherd: He is the classic pattern of all shepherds; He has a total quality

of beauty and completeness. Likewise, true goodness, flowing from the Holy Spirit and pouring from our hearts, always bears this Image.



Divine Goodness

Fr. Gerald sP

Your calling, my dear children, is to hold your heart daily as a golden cup up to the overflowing chalice of Christ's Heart and let your heart be thus filled with goodness and grace, to be borne carefully and patiently to the thirsting souls that sit amid the shadows of Life's Bethsaida (cf. Jn 5: 1-9) and have no one to carry them to the life-giving waters of its pool.

Courage, therefore, my dear ones! Renew your determination at the Master's feet, your spirit by His Spirit, your heart from His Heart, your goodness from His Goodness. The stars shall fall from the heavens, time shall wash away all earthly attainment, but the chalice of your lives held up, in goodness, to the overflowing chalice of Christ's, shall be brim-filled here on earth and will one day glisten fair forever in the Eternal Dawn.

The Divine Fruits

Part Seven

Faithfulness

The fruit of the Spirit which is faithfulness enables us to accept steadily and perform steadfastly the common duty set before us without any reference to personal preference because we perceive it as a manifestation of the Will of God. It means continuing quietly with the job we have been given, in the situation where we have been placed; not yielding to the restless desire of change.

Faithfulness is also the quality of the friend, refusing neither test nor trouble; loyal; persevering; not at the mercy of emotional ups and downs or subservient to weariness when things are tiresome. In the interior life of prayer, faithfulness points steadily to God and His purposes, away from self and its preoccupations. The friendship of God is like that, and He asks the same faithfulness from us in return. It takes a brave and loving soul to understand and respond to this sturdy faithfulness of God, for there is nothing sentimental about it. The faithful father and teacher do what is needed, though it may not always be pleasant. He will even risk losing the child's affection rather than fail the child's real needs – giving firm tests when tests are



needed, revoking apparent support that courage and initiative may be learned, withdrawing the dangerous joy. God our Father is like that, bit by bit producing in our soul a fidelity that will answer His own.

Faithfully Live Your Vocation!

Fr. Gerald sP

Every soul in the world has a vocation! Not everyone's vocation is to the Religious Life, but every soul that comes into the world does have a vocation, and all vocations are essentially one – to know, to love and to serve God.

It seems to me this great truth which lends such dignity to human life is too little reflected upon by men. The priest, the nun, the husband, the wife, the father, the mother, older brothers and sacrificing sisters – all of us share in one vast beautiful plan of the Almighty. All, if we be governed by His laws, speaking to us through the voice of conscience and the lips of Mother Church, all of us are carrying on for God, one Plan for His external glory which involves, by reason of His essential and infinite Goodness, the eternal happiness of our immortal souls.



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 Newsletter

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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

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Please send an acknowledgement card on my behalf to:

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

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