

Catholic Candle

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Catholic Candle's 2024 Catholic Calendar

The *Catholic Candle's* 2024 Traditional Catholic calendar is now available at catholiccandle.org. It is free to download and is freely distributable.



Life, Death, and Salvation Without a Priest

As you know, God wants us to be happy on earth, and in Heaven with Him after we die. He suffered and died for us for that very reason. But *why, oh why*, does He leave us *Catholic Candle* readers without a good, uncompromising priest?

God knows best and knows what we need to achieve our goal of salvation.

St. Augustine says:

All that happens to us in this world against our will (whether due to men or to other causes) happens to us only by the will of God, by the disposal of Providence, by His orders and under His guidance; and if from the frailty of our understanding we cannot grasp the reason for some event, let us attribute it to Divine Providence, show Him respect by accepting it from His Hand, believe firmly that He does not send it to us without cause.”¹

Divine Providence has placed many people around the world, at various times, in situations in which they had no Sacraments or Mass at all, (e.g., Japanese Catholics for 300 years). And God has willed other people to live where there were many valid Sacraments, but all of them were bad and had to be avoided (e.g., in St. Hermenegild's Arian Spain and in many places in Revolutionary France). God sometimes wills Catholics to be without the Mass and Sacraments out of love for Him and for the sake of

¹ *Trustful Surrender to Divine Providence*, Fr. Jean Baptiste Saint-Jure, S.J. and St. Claude de la Colombiere, S.J., Tan Books and Publishers, Rockford, Ill., 1983, pp. 17-18.

the Catholic Faith and morals. Of course, even during such times, it is imperative for Catholics to still practice the Catholic Faith and to pray and practice Catholic virtues.

So, let's examine some of the many things that God has done for our salvation. We can begin with the fact that He gave us a perfect religion and all that it offers. The first necessity is, of course, Baptism, which can be performed by the parents, or others if necessary.²

Let us look next at the help we receive from the Ten Commandments and from our conscience, (often called the *Voice of God* because it bids us to do right and avoid wrong).³

In spite of the certainty that readers of the *Catholic Candle* are conversant with the Ten Commandments, we nevertheless review them here:

- I. I am the lord thy God; thou shalt not have strange gods before Me.
- II. Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain.
- III. Remember thou keep holy the Lord's Day.
- IV. Honor thy father and thy mother.
- V. Thou shalt not kill.
- VI. Thou shalt not commit adultery.
- VII. Thou shalt not steal.
- VIII. Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor.
- IX. Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's wife.
- X. Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's goods.

God also gave us other specific instructions, some of which are obligatory under the Natural Law and some are not. For example, the Natural Law requires us to make sacrifices to the Creator but does not specify that we abstain from meat in particular or on what specific days to do so. Through Her own commandments, the Church has

² *My Catholic Faith*, Bishop Louis LaRavoire Morrow, My Mission House, 1949, p. 255.

³ *My Catholic Faith*, Bishop Louis LaRavoire Morrow, My Mission House, 1949, p. 171.

fortunately commanded us in specific ways how we must fulfil the natural law. The main Commandments of the Church are these six:

1. To assist at Mass on all Sundays and Holy Days of obligation, (when there is one available without compromise, of course.)
2. To fast and abstain on the days appointed.
3. To confess our sins at least once a year. (Again, we do this, when possible, without compromise).
4. To receive Holy Communion during Easter time. (We do this, when possible, without compromise.)
5. To contribute to the support of the Church.
6. To observe the laws of the Church concerning marriage.

There are other commandments besides these six, such as the law that specifies that membership in Masonic or other anti-Catholic organizations is forbidden, or that cremation is similarly prohibited, but these are some of the principal ones.⁴

The important point is that a loving God gave us these guidelines to help us get to Heaven. He even went a step further when He said that under certain conditions, a dying person might avoid hell and even purgatory.

It is the teaching of great masters of the spiritual life that a person who, at the point of death, makes an act of perfect conformity to the will of God will be delivered not only from hell but also from purgatory, even if he has committed all the sins in the world.⁵

“The reason,” says St. Alphonsus, “is that he who accepts death with perfect resignation acquires similar merit to that of a martyr who has voluntarily given his life for Christ, and even amid the greatest sufferings he will die happily and joyfully”.⁶

⁴ *My Catholic Faith*, Bishop Louis LaRavoire Morrow, My Mission House, 1949, p. 237.

⁵ Quoted in *Trustful Surrender to Divine Providence*, Fr. Jean Baptiste Sainte-Jure, S.J. and St. Claude de la Colombiere, S.J., Tan Books and Publishers, Rockford, Ill. 1983, p.71.

⁶ Quoted in *Trustful Surrender to Divine Providence*, Fr. Jean Baptiste Sainte-Jure, S.J. and St. Claude de la Colombiere, S.J., Tan Books and Publishers, Rockford, Ill. 1983, p.71.

Of course, it goes without saying that without a priest and without the Sacraments, we must pray very much, study the Faith diligently, make a better effort to sacrifice, and live by our informed conscience.



Glacier-Melting Alarmism

Let us consider what is sometimes called the “deep state”. The federal government has a small number of political appointees at the top of the various departments of the federal government. These “bosses” are usually replaced when a new president takes office.

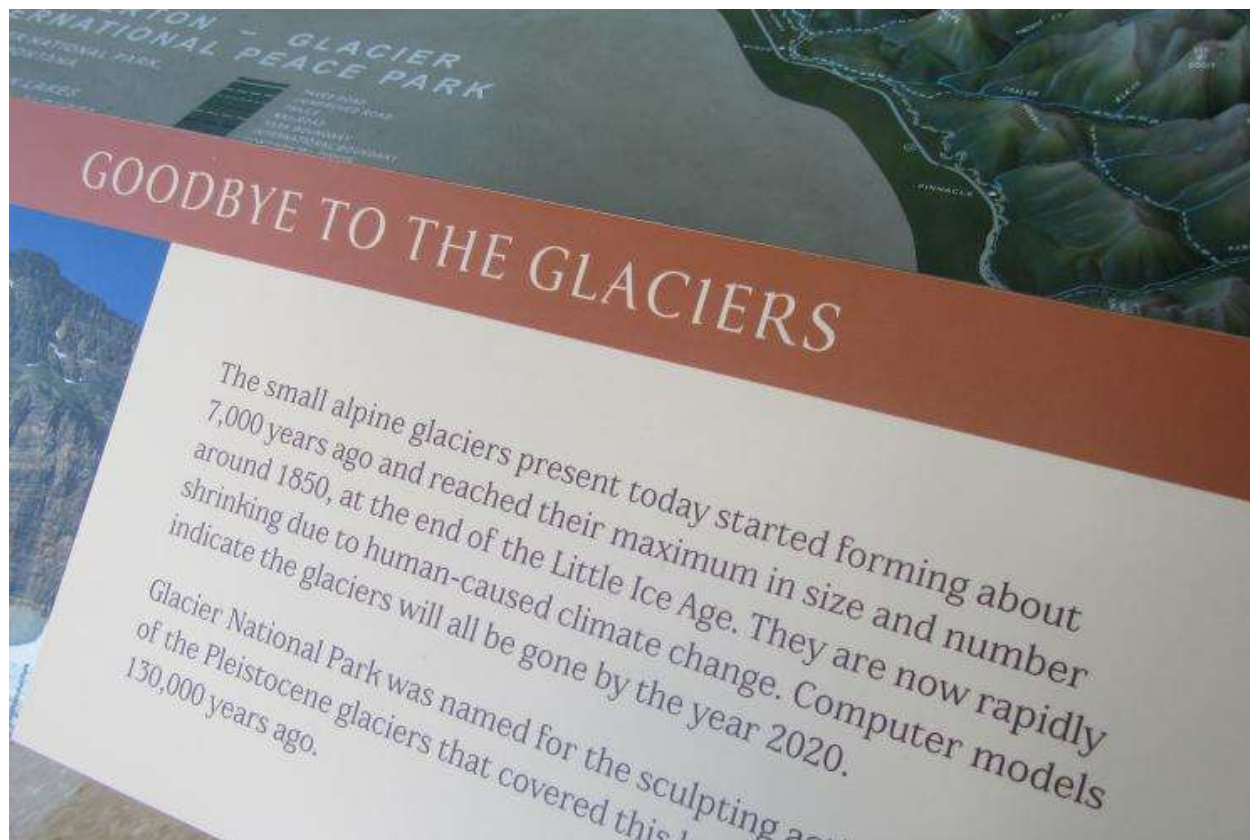
But underneath those bosses are a myriad of “career employees” who are supposedly non-political and who cannot be fired when the political administrations are changed. Most of those career employees are liberals/leftists (of one sort or another) and they cannot be replaced even when a more conservative governor or president takes office.

In about the 1960s, leftist leaders declared publicly that they would fill the federal bureaucracies with leftists who could not be fired because they were not political appointees although these workers, in their viewpoints, were/are highly political leftists. The phrasing for this, which the leftists used at the time, was that they were undertaking “a long march through the institutions”. That this march was a “long march” indicated that the leftists knew this was not the work of a couple of years, but rather, of decades. This leftist campaign not only targeted the federal government bureaucracies but also the universities and other institutions.

For purposes of this article, let us take one example. Most of the U.S. National Park Service career employees are fully onboard with the leftist agenda. Among other ways this is true is that they strongly promote climate alarmism, such as featuring brochures, signs, and films which boldly proclaimed (before 2020) that all glaciers at Glacier National Park (in Montana) are melting away rapidly and would soon be entirely gone (*viz.*, by 2020).⁷

⁷ <https://wattsupwiththat.com/2019/06/06/glacier-national-park-quietly-removes-its-gone-by-2020-signs-2/>

Here is a photo of one of these signs⁸, which was installed sometime before 2010⁹:



Notice that these climate-alarmist “scientists” assert that they “know” that the glaciers started forming 7000 years ago. By our Catholic Faith, we understand that the world is only about that old. But do these “scientists” *really* know when (and in particular 7000 years ago!) the *present* glaciers started forming (as these “scientists” assert that they know)? That is *very* doubtful!

Further, these “scientists” speculate and say that they “know” that during the entirety of the last 7000 years, the glaciers *never* were larger than they were in the middle of the 1800s. A thinking person would certainly consider that assertion *very* doubtful because that assertion would require the “experts” to know the relative sizes of the glaciers during the entire preceding 7000 years. That is *very* doubtful!

⁸ <https://nypost.com/2020/01/09/glacier-national-park-removes-signs-predicting-glaciers-will-be-gone-by-2020/>

⁹ <https://nypost.com/2020/01/10/the-telling-tale-of-glacier-national-parks-gone-by-2020-signs/>

Leaving aside the shaky basis of these dubious claims, a thinking person would be able to discern the implicit admission contained in the sign above:

These “experts” say that, at the end of the particularly severe cold cycle (“*The Little Ice Age*”), the glaciers were at maximum size. A thinking person would say, “of course the glaciers were at the maximum (or at least larger than they are now) at the end of the cold climate cycle called the “Little Ice Age”! That is the whole point of a “Little Ice Age” – *viz.*, that there is greater cold and hence, larger glaciers.

Further, the sign implicitly admits that the glaciers are shrinking (“rapidly” according to them!) because we are in a warming cycle (compared to the prior cold cycle). So, the climate alarmists are solemnly warning that the glaciers which had grown in response to the prior cold cycle are now shrinking in response to the subsequent warming cycle. So, what these “scientists” are really telling us is that the climate goes in cycles and we are in a warming cycle in which the glaciers are shrinking. What “geniuses” they are!

But they are leftists (or the dupes of the leftists), so they cannot attribute this normal glacier shrinkage to these natural climate cycles. No! They must declare that *man* caused this glacier shrinkage in order that they can alarm people that these very ancient – 7000-year-old – glaciers are being lost and so (according to these “scientists”) we must fight anthropogenic (man-caused) global warming.

Notice in the sign above, the National Park Service leftists claim that there will be no more glaciers in 2020. None. Zip. Nada.

But those glaciers are all still there!¹⁰ All 29 of them!

The Park Service, however, is removing the signs warning that the glaciers will disappear any year now, because those signs now show the ridiculousness of this alarmist claim.¹¹ Do the National Park Service leftists admit they were wrong? Of course not. They merely move on to a different alarmist claim predicting utter destruction and desolation a little further into the future.

In this (“glaciers disappearing”) alarmism, the U.S. Park Service and U.S. Geological Survey like to display glacier photos from decades ago and compare them to more recent photos of the same location. The problem is that those photos are dated showing the year but not the month of the year. This is important because, every year, the glaciers grow in the winter and shrink in the summer. So, to someone who understands how a glacier

¹⁰ <https://nypost.com/2020/01/10/the-telling-tale-of-glacier-national-parks-gone-by-2020-signs/>

¹¹ <https://nypost.com/2020/01/10/the-telling-tale-of-glacier-national-parks-gone-by-2020-signs/>

fluctuates every year, the photos do not prove anything unless we know in what month of the year the photo was snapped.

One exception to the rule (*viz.*, that the month is not given for the glacier photos), is the photo of one of the best-known glaciers, Grinnell Glacier, taken by USGS scientist Daniel Fagre on August 26, 2010. Knowing the month of this photo allows us to compare the photo to the same glacier at nearly the same time of the year, twelve years later, in 2022. The 2022 photo was taken two weeks later on September 10, 2022, roughly at the time when the glaciers experience their first average freeze (which occurs on September 14). Thus, the 2010 photo was taken before this glacier experienced its final two weeks of shrinking/thawing.

This means that the Grinnell Glacier presumably experienced two more weeks of melting and so was smaller on the same calendar date (September 10) than it was when Fagre snapped the picture in 2010. Here are the two photos (below).¹² As you see, there is no apparent decrease in the size of that glacier over twelve years.

¹² The photos are available here: <https://wattsupwiththat.com/2022/10/29/what-is-going-on-with-the-glaciers-at-glacier-national-park/>



August 26, 2010



September 10, 2022

Incidentally, a team of glacier scientists from Lysander Spooner University visits Glacier National Park each September and has noted that the most famous glaciers such as the Grinnell Glacier and the Jackson Glacier appear to have been growing – not shrinking – since about 2010. The Jackson Glacier, which is easily seen from the Going-To-The-Sun Highway may have grown as much as 25% or more over the past decade.¹³ But do the

¹³ <https://wattsupwiththat.com/2019/06/06/glacier-national-park-quietly-removes-its-gone-by-2020-signs-2/>

leftists admit they are scaremongers? No. Do they admit they are wrong? No. They insist that there is an emergency and ignore their past ridiculous claims.

Let these considerations help us to put things in perspective and help us to distrust the leftists' lies and alarmist claims which are aimed at aiding the globalist power grab.



Greta Thunberg and the “Doom Coming Soon” Alarmism

There is a young woman named Greta Thunberg who is an international celebrity climate activist who is heavily sponsored and promoted by the world's major governments and quasi-governmental bodies¹⁴, and is honored by prestigious organizations,¹⁵ and is highly extolled by the mainstream media.¹⁶

She is thoroughly imbued with the myth of climate catastrophe and is influential because of her international acclaim.

Greta is a dupe and a tool of the leftists. She is not well informed but has nonetheless devoted her life to expressing her concern about impending climate devastation and the need to “save the planet”. For example, she tweeted in 2018 that mankind would be wiped out if we did not stop all fossil fuel use by 2023. Here is the tweet¹⁷:

¹⁴ For example, she has addressed the United Nations twice, addressed the British, European, and French parliaments, met with the Chancellor of Germany, met with Pope Francis, was invited to give testimony before a committee of the U.S. House of Representatives, and gave a speech at the *World Economic Forum*.

¹⁵ For example, she was made an honorary fellow of the *Fellowship of the Royal Scottish Geographical Society* and was nominated four times for the *Nobel Peace Prize*.

¹⁶ She was included in *Time's* 100 most influential people, as well as was the youngest person ever to be made *Time Magazine's* Person of the Year. She was also included in the *Forbes* list of *The World's 100 Most Powerful Women*.

¹⁷ This tweet was published here: <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-11862361/Greta-Thunberg-deletes-2018-tweet-saying-climate-change-wipe-humanity.html>



Greta Thunberg 
@GretaThunberg

...

"A top climate scientist is warning that climate change will wipe out all of humanity unless we stop using fossil fuels over the next five years."

gritpost.com/humans-extinct...

11:18 AM · Jun 21, 2018

Greta's above link to an article on gritpost.com cites to a prominent Harvard University professor named James Anderson, who is an atmospheric chemistry (supposed) expert. Professor Anderson gave this dire warning that humanity will go extinct unless man stops burning all fossil fuels by 2023.

Obviously though, however much Greta was sincerely terrified in 2018 and convinced that everyone is going to die soon unless all burning of fossil fuels stops within five years (by 2023), nonetheless, she sees later that she looks foolish now (in 2024) to have predicted that all mankind will soon be dead. So sometime after March 7, 2023, Greta deleted her tweet.¹⁸

But Greta is like the rest of the climate alarmists. Do you think she admitted she was wrong? No. Did she acknowledge she was foolish? Certainly not. Like all of the rest of these climate "Chicken Littles", she merely conceals her irrational scaremongering quietly and goes on to predict the next catastrophe a few years further into the future.

This is like those "all-wise clairvoyants" in a companion article to this one¹⁹, who declared that the glaciers would be entirely gone by 2020. It is like those "prophets of alarm" in the 1970s²⁰ who declared that a permanent *New Ice Age* would soon arrive.

Thus, Greta shows these common traits shared with the other climate alarmists:

1. Make a wild prediction of doom;
2. Later, quietly conceal the false prediction when it becomes obvious to everyone that it is ludicrous; and

¹⁸ <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-11862361/Greta-Thunberg-deletes-2018-tweet-saying-climate-change-wipe-humanity.html>

¹⁹ <https://catholiccandle.org/2024/01/26/glacier-melting-alarmism/>

²⁰ Read this article: *Recalling a 1970s Climate-Change Hoax*:
<https://catholiccandle.org/2022/10/25/recalling-a-1970s-climate-change-hoax/>

3. Then make the next reckless forecast.

Besides this pattern of scaremongering, the second trait that Greta exemplifies is that young liberal women as a group have a substantially higher incidence of (so-called) “mental” problems (such as diagnosed, clinical depression), as contrasted not only to young conservatives of either sex, but also as compared to even young liberal men.²¹

Greta is an example of this, too. She is a young liberal woman and has stated publicly that she has multiple diagnosed (so-called) “mental disorders” including clinical depression.²²

All of these considerations remind us how the Dear Lord has blessed faithful and informed Catholics! Truly, the full Traditional Catholic Faith is a treasure beyond price and is completely undeserved by us!

Let us thank our generous Lord for this great gift! Let us guard this gift and do all we can do to strengthen it. The Good Lord is now giving us this time to strengthen our Faith because, it seems, we will need that stronger Faith in the times to come!



***Words to Live by* – from Catholic Tradition**

St. John Chrysostom, Doctor of the Church, quotes this phrase from *Colossians*, 3:16: “Let the word of Christ dwell in you abundantly, in all wisdom”.

From this verse, St. John Chrysostom teaches how the priceless treasure of wisdom, helps us in our time of tribulation:

As the rich in money can bear fines and damages, so he that is rich in the doctrines of philosophy will bear not poverty only, but all calamities also easily, yea, more easily than that one [*viz.*, those “rich in money”].

²¹ Read this two-part article here: <https://catholiccandle.org/2023/11/26/the-connection-between-virtue-and-happiness-part-1/>

&

<https://catholiccandle.org/2023/12/18/the-connection-between-virtue-and-happiness-part-2/>

²²

<https://web.archive.org/web/20191128142643/https://www.commondreams.org/news/2018/12/19/depressed-and-then-diagnosed-autism-greta-thunberg-explains-why-hope-cannot-save>

For as for him, by discharging the fine, the man who is rich [in money] must needs be impoverished, and found wanting, and if he should often suffer in that way, will no longer be able to bear it, but in this case [viz., the man rich in this philosophy] it is not so; for we do not even expend our wholesome thoughts when it is necessary for us to bear aught [i.e., anything] we would not choose, but they abide with us continually.

And mark the wisdom of this blessed man [viz., St. Paul]. He said not, “Let the word of Christ” be in you, simply, but what? “dwell in you”, and “richly”.

St. John Chrysostom, Sermon 9 on *Colossians*, 3:16 (bracketed words added to show context).



The Leftist Attack on Personal Resilience

The Marxists and Leftists are intentionally undermining the moral fiber of society and the personal resilience of the people. These enemies of Christ attempt to promote the idea that all people are fragile, and to convince the individual members of the public that they are so.

The Marxists’ motive is plain: no one can effectively resist their ongoing revolution and political power-grab if he believes himself to be:

- ❖ fragile,
- ❖ dependent on the Big Brother establishment (the “nanny state”) to take care of him,
- ❖ dependent on the government to give him money, (handouts/freebies, a so-called “minimum basic income”),
- ❖ dependent on a continual supply of “attitude adjusters” (anti-depressants) to “solve” his “mental” and emotional problems,
- ❖ dependent because of addictions due to the Leftists legalizing and promoting cannabis, opioids, and other hallucinogenic drugs,

- ❖ traumatized and “triggered”²³,
- ❖ frightened or disturbed by so-called “misgendering”, “transphobia”, or “microaggressions”,
- ❖ depressed,
- ❖ anxious,
- ❖ suffering from disruptive–impulsive disorder,
- ❖ continually needing “therapists” and counsellors,
- ❖ autistic,
- ❖ suffering from ADHD,
- ❖ Enfeebled by an obsession with pornography (which the Leftists make widely available),
- ❖ weak and helpless,
- ❖ suffering from OCD (“Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder”), and/or
- ❖ other “disorders”.

A man cannot direct his efforts, attention, and will-power to resist the Marxist power-grab when that man is (or believes himself to be) so broken, dysfunctional, and constantly needing to keep his appointments to “treat” his attention deficit disorder (or other such “disorders”).

The Leftists promote the idea that, if something goes wrong in a person’s life, he is entitled to become emotional and upset if the government does not swoop in and take care of him, making everything better like a nanny swooping in to help a small child who falls on the floor of the nursery.

The Leftists want each person to believe that he has a right to expect that a “government safety net” will protect him from everything, cushion his every misfortune, assuage his every hurt, and treat his every wound.

²³ *Merriam Webster Dictionary* defines “trigger” as follows: *to cause an intense and usually negative emotional reaction in (someone)*. <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/trigger>

The Leftists want to avoid a man being resourceful, provident, hard-working, honest, courageous, self-sacrificing, self-controlled, self-reliant, virtuous, and taking responsibility for his own decisions, choices, and actions.

An important result of our Holy Catholic Faith is that it is the greatest source of genuine resilience which has ever existed. We Catholics must strive to completely conform our wills to God's Will. We know that everything that happens to us which is out of our control, is for our good and is a source of good for us.

We know infallibly that God's Will is always the best and wisest. What a comfort! We know that all things, including tribulations, "work together unto the good, for those who love God". *Romans*, 8:28.

This Catholic resilience is completely unlike the fake, modern "resilience" of the ungodly, which is mostly self-deception and "positive thinking". (Somewhat similar to this fake, modern "resilience" is the sham resilience of the Stoics of ancient times, which was actually mere endurance, not real resilience.)

We close with one example showing the extent to which the Leftists have succeeded in largely destroying the character and resilience of the people in our society. This example concerns the fragility on display at the Leftist-controlled U.S. State Department. The example shows how our current bizarre world is *stranger-than-fiction* and beyond parody.

The State Department (which has been entirely captured by the Leftists) was recently developing a computer program to more easily allow its employees to declare their "preferred pronouns" (e.g., "she/her/hers" or "he/him/his").²⁴

But a system-wide email glitch temporarily (and randomly) assigned pronouns and inserted them on the email "from" lines of all State Department personnel.²⁵

Secretary of State Antony Blinken and the State Department's Chief Information Officer both apologized profusely. Blinken stated that he knew how "distressing" it was for department personnel that the computer system randomly assigned "preferred pronouns" to them.²⁶

²⁴ <https://www.lifesitenews.com/blogs/biden-state-department-offers-free-counseling-to-staff-triggered-by-accidental-misgendering/>

²⁵ <https://www.lifesitenews.com/blogs/biden-state-department-offers-free-counseling-to-staff-triggered-by-accidental-misgendering/>

²⁶ <https://www.lifesitenews.com/blogs/biden-state-department-offers-free-counseling-to-staff-triggered-by-accidental-misgendering/>

Because so many people were “triggered” by this glitch, the State Department offered all staff free “professional counseling” to help them “recover” from their “distress” at being “misgendered”.²⁷

Resilience is a sort of heartiness in a person’s character. We increasingly see the opposite in people’s characters today – they instead resemble a house of cards – ready to collapse at the smallest mishap or puff of air.

Obtaining this genuine resilience is certainly not the main reason we embrace the true Catholic Faith. But it is one additional blessing that God gives to His friends.

This is another reason to be grateful for the countless blessings He gives us. In return, Christ the King wants us to fight for Him, which is a great privilege and is our life’s work.

Let us fight against this Leftist power-grab by promoting the virtues and strength of character which are the resilience that the Leftists attack. Let us fight together side-by-side, in the trenches of the Church Militant, for our Noble and Divine King!



Catholic Candle note: Below is the 30th part of this guide to the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius of Loyola. Here are previous parts:

<https://catholiccandle.org/category/resources-for-faith-and-practice/on-working-for-holiness/marys-school-of-sanctity/>

Mary’s School of Sanctity

Lesson #30 The Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius —FOURTH WEEK –CONTEMPLATION ON THE ATTAINMENT OF DIVINE LOVE

This meditation is the final one that St. Ignatius gives in his *Spiritual Exercises*. One could almost see this meditation as the grand finale. So much could be said about the concepts that he gave us for this meditation. We will give some considerations after sharing what St. Ignatius set forth.

Initially, St. Ignatius gives two points to be noted. ***The first point is that love ought to be manifested in deeds rather than in words.***

²⁷ <https://www.lifesitenews.com/blogs/biden-state-department-offers-free-counseling-to-staff-triggered-by-accidental-misgendering/>

The second point is that love consists in a mutual interchange by the two parties, that is to say, that the lover give to and share with the beloved all that he has or can attain, and that the beloved act toward the lover in like manner. Thus, if he has knowledge, he shares it with the one who does not have it. In like manner they share honors, riches, and all things.

The preparatory prayer is the same as usual, I ask God Our Lord the grace that all my intentions, actions, and works may be directed purely to the service and praise of the Divine Majesty.

The FIRST PRELUDE is the mental representation of the place. Here it is to see how I stand in the presence of God Our Lord and of the angels and saints, who intercede for me.

The SECOND PRELUDE is to ask for what I desire. Here it will be to ask for a deep knowledge of the many blessings I have received, that I may be filled with gratitude for them, and in all things love and serve the Divine Majesty.

The FIRST POINT is to call to mind the benefits that I have received from creation, redemption, and the particular gifts I have received. I will ponder with great affection how much God Our Lord has done for me, and how many of His graces He has given me. I will likewise consider how much the same Lord wishes to give Himself to me in so far as He can, according to His divine decrees. I will then reflect within myself, and consider that I, for my part, with great reason and justice, should offer and give to His Divine Majesty, all that I possess, and myself with it, as one who makes an offering with deep affection, saying:

Take, O Lord, and receive all my liberty, my memory, my understanding, and my entire will. All that I have and possess Thou hast given me. To Thee, O Lord, I return it. All is Thine; dispose of it according to Thy Will. Give me Thy love and Thy grace, for this is enough for me.

The SECOND POINT is to consider how God dwells in His creatures: in the elements, giving them being; in the plants, giving them life; in the animals, giving them sensation; in men giving them understanding. So, He dwells in me, giving me being, life, sensation, and intelligence, and making a temple of me, since He created me to the likeness and image of His Divine Majesty. Then I will reflect upon myself in the manner stated in the first point, or in any other way that may seem more beneficial.

The same procedure should be observed in each of the points that follow.

The THIRD POINT is to consider how God works and labors for me in all created things on the face of the earth, that is, He conducts Himself as one Who labors;

in the heavens, the elements, plants, fruits, flocks, etc. He gives them being, preserves them, grants them growth, sensation, etc. Then I will reflect on myself.

The FOURTH POINT is to consider how all blessings and gifts descend from above. My limited power, for example, comes from the supreme and infinite power from above. In like manner justice, goodness, pity, mercy, etc. descend from above just as the rays from the sun, the waters from the spring, etc. Then I will reflect upon myself, as explained above, and conclude with a colloquy and the “Our Father.”

We now will share what Fr. Hurter gives to us about the above four points in what he calls four motives, or reasons for loving God, and then we’ll add a brief note for each one.

The First Motive for Loving God

God is our greatest *benefactor*. Love shows itself by benefactions. God simply overwhelmed us with benefits. Think but of the gifts of *nature*: body and soul, health and the use of the senses, food and clothing, beloved parents and benefactors, general and special benefits. All this we owe to God, and these benefits He has conferred on us daily and hourly for many years. We are but a composition of benefits. “What hast thou that thou hast not received?” (I *Corinthians.*, 4:7)

We come now to the still more precious gifts of the supernatural order, the order of *graces*: our redemption by the sufferings and death of the Son of God, our creation into this world *after* the coming of Our Lord. Recall all the gifts of faith, of the true Church, of the sacraments; that the Lord, by sanctifying grace, has made us His adopted children, that He is so near to us by His Sacred Body in Holy Communion, the repeated remission of our sins, the many means of graces which accompanied us from the day of our birth to this day:²⁸ so that in gratitude we must acknowledge: “He hath not done in like manner to every nation, and His judgments

²⁸ In this time of the great apostasy when the majority of uncompromising Catholics have no priests and sacraments, we must not think that God is not still taking care of our spiritual needs. He has made our prayers more efficacious including our spiritual communions and rosaries, precisely because we are refraining from participating in compromise Masses and Sacraments.

We should also keep in mind that even if we do not have the sacramental confession available without compromise that we must practice perfect acts of contrition. Furthermore, by using indulgenced prayers and sacramentals such as our rosary beads, and Signs of the Cross, we can remit our venial sins. Our Lord indeed does not leave us orphans, especially when we are sacrificing and avoiding compromise out of love for Him!

He hath not made manifest to them.” (Ps. 147:20) To thousands and thousands he has not been as generous as He has been to us.

Let us cast a glance into the *hereafter*, on the blessings of *heaven*. What is the Lord in His goodness not willing to give? Himself in all His glory. “I am thy reward exceeding great.” (Gen. 15:5)

If giving presents is a proof of love, and the Lord has showered benefits down upon us poor human beings, how He must love us! “What shall I render to the Lord, for all the things that He hath rendered to me?” (Ps. 115: 12) If beggars for a few cents love their benefactors, how shall we requite God’s love for us? What love then do we owe to God? But love must show itself in deeds. What can we give to the Lord? All that we have belongs to Him. But the Lord is so good that He takes His own benefits as presents if we but offer them as a sacrifice. Therefore, we shall confirm our love for the Lord by an act of consecration. We must say with a grateful, willing and cheerful heart: “Take, O Lord, and receive my entire liberty, my memory, my understanding, and my whole will. All that I am and have Thou hast given me, and I give it back again to Thee, to be disposed of according to Thy good pleasure. Give me only Thy love and Thy grace; with these I am rich enough and ask no more.”²⁹

Additional note about the First Motive

Yes, indeed, we need nothing more than God. He must be for us our all and everything. From the very first meditation in the *Spiritual Exercises*, we have been taught by St. Ignatius that God must be our number one priority and our highest love. In this first motive for loving God, we are really addressing the most important reasons that we owe God gratitude and love. What could be more important than the gift of the Catholic Faith and all that comes with the Faith? We cannot thank God enough for it. Seeing how precious the gift of Faith is, and how vulnerable we are in that we are incapable of keeping the Faith without God’s help, helps us to be more grateful to God. With gratitude comes humility and love.

Fr. Hurter continues:

The Second Motive for Loving God

God in His love for us wants to be near us always. Love shows itself in this: that it is fond of being with the person it loves. Lovers like to see each other. How does

²⁹ Considerations from *Sketches for the Exercises of An Eight Days’ Retreat*, by Hugo Hurter, S.J., Ph.D., D.D., Professor Emeritus of Theology in the Catholic University of Innsbruck, copyright 1918; third edition, 1926, St. Louis, MO and London, Page 269-271.

God answer this demand? He is everywhere near us, distributing favors in the whole of nature. In this eagerness to be still nearer to us, the son of God came down from heaven to visit us in our homes: “And the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us.” (John 1:14) To perpetuate this visit, He instituted the most holy Sacrament of the Altar, to be wherever even a few Christians assemble. There He is day and night in the midst of them; and He rather waits for us there, that we should have to wait for His coming and visit. If we cannot come to Him, He has Himself brought to us, even if our dwelling be ever so poor, a mere hut, a stable, a prison. The Holy Ghost makes us His temple, in which He desires to dwell. “Know you not,” writes St. Paul, “that you are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?” (I Cor. 3:16) Furthermore, Our Divine Savior in His love for us wants us to be with Him forever. “Father, I will that where I am, they also whom Thou hast given Me may be with Me.” (John 17:14) To Him, therefore, the words apply: “My delights were to be with the children of men.” (Prov. 8:31)

Such love, such condescension, calls for a return, and since a lover is fond of being near the person he loves, we will show our love of God by being with Him in thought, as a child away from home often thinks of its dear parents, and by visits which we can easily make to the Blessed Sacrament.³⁰ We should be glad to converse with Him all the more because it is an honor that God deigns to associate with us poor creatures, and because these visits are always so rich in graces.³¹

Additional note about the Second Motive

Our Lord referred to Himself as the heavenly Bridegroom. This is the most intimate friendship He could give to humans. How loving of Him to want to be so close to us! St. Thomas Aquinas explains to us that Goodness is self-diffusive. We see this is so true especially when we consider the plan of God to dwell physically among us. He gives Himself to us in a beautiful divine friendship. Even when the Mystical Body has suffered persecutions in history, Our Lord always sustained His Flock. For He said, “I will not leave you orphans, I will come to you...In that day you shall know, that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you.” (John 14:18 & 20) What a wonderful truth to know that the Trinity wills to dwell in us!

³⁰ Again, because the majority of uncompromising Catholics living in these times of the great apostasy do not have access to the Tridentine Mass and sacraments and the Blessed Sacrament, we should endeavor to make many spiritual communions and meditate on the Trinity dwelling in our souls, especially through His Divine grace. We should speak to God in our souls and pour out our hearts to Him with love and gratitude.

³¹ Considerations from *Sketches for the Exercises of An Eight Days' Retreat*, by Hugo Hurter, S.J., Ph.D., D.D., Professor Emeritus of Theology in the Catholic University of Innsbruck, copyright 1918; third edition, 1926, St. Louis, MO and London, Page 269-271.

Fr. Hurter continues:

The Third Motive for Loving God

Love is strengthened not only by presents and visits but especially by *deeds* when it is active and generous in favor of the one beloved. Thus, a mother's love for her child shows itself not so much when she gives it fine clothes as when she works and stints herself for it, spends many a sleepless night at its bedside to nurse it in its sickness, and denies herself in many ways that she may take care of her child; when from early morning to late at night she suffers and makes sacrifices for its welfare. So, too, does God show His love for us by being active for, in and about us. He is everywhere active in nature for our benefit. He gives growth and ripening to plants for our sustenance. He lights the sun to give us light and heat. He preserves, governs, and directs the universe, that it may be at our service. Yes, the Son of God went still further for our sake. He worked for us, bore painful sacrifices for us, even suffered to save us.

St. Bernard writes:

My reparation after the fall was not as my creation. He spoke and the universe was created. (Ps. 148:5) But He Who by a single word created me, has said much, done wonderful things, suffered severely, not only severely, but even what humiliated Him, to bring about my reparation. "What shall I render to the Lord for all the things that He hath rendered to me?" (Ps. 115:12) In creation He made a present of me to myself, in redemption He gave Himself up for me, and thereby gave me back to myself. Hence by creation and redemption I owe myself for myself. What then shall I give to God for Himself? Were I to make a sacrifice of myself a thousand times, what am I compared with God?

I must therefore show and confirm my love by working, making sacrifices, and suffering for God. "Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatsoever you do, do all to the glory of God." (I Cor. 10:31)³²

Additional note about the Third Motive

What more could Our Lord have done for us than He did? He suffered and died for us. Even more importantly, He showed us by the cruel suffering and insults He endured how much He loved His heavenly Father. At the same time, He showed how malicious sin is

³² Considerations from *Sketches for the Exercises of An Eight Days' Retreat*, by Hugo Hurter, S.J., Ph.D., D.D., Professor Emeritus of Theology in the Catholic University of Innsbruck, copyright 1918; third edition, 1926, St. Louis, MO and London, Page 272-273.

and how we should rather die than to offend God. In very fact, He showed us how to love the Father. We ought to imitate Him for He is always Our Model of perfect love.

Fr. Hurter continues:

The Fourth Motive for Loving God

The *amiability* of God. That this glorious and exalted motive may enkindle in us a fervent love, let us consider how often a mere shadow of beauty, a drop of perfection found in creatures, draws our heart, charms and enraptures us. What love, then, will the infinite beauty of God, the fountain of all perfection, enkindle in us? If, therefore, creatures approach you with their beauty and loveliness to draw you to themselves, to fetter and imprison you, cry out to them: “I would be a fool were I to run after a drop and give myself to a shadow, when I can have the sum-total of all beauty and glory. No, I will give my heart to the Infinite Being, Who alone can make me perfectly happy.”

Creatures with their beauty shall be to me as a guide directing me and telling me to “Love God!” To Him my whole heart shall belong. And therefore, creatures are so beautiful that they may remind me “how much the Lord to them is more beautiful than they, for the first author of beauty made all those things.” (Wis. 13:3)

Rightly does St. Augustine say: “Heaven and earth and all that is in the universe cry out to me from all directions that I, O God, must love Thee. And they do not cease to cry out to all, so that they have no excuse.”

And if I furthermore consider that this infinitely beautiful, exalted, and perfect Being is *mindful* of me, and *watches* over me, and *loves* me, although He has no need of me whatever; that He *wants* my love and longs for it, and *rejoices* when I love Him—how we must consider ourselves pressed to comply with His wish, and dazzled with His beauty and loveliness, be entirely consumed in His love, love Him with our whole heart, and with our whole soul, and with our whole mind, and with our whole strength, as He commanded us to do. (Mark 12:30)

Let us ask Our Lord by His precious Blood for such a love; and let it be the most beautiful fruit of these spiritual exercises. Let us willingly repeat the beautiful petition of St. Augustine: “That I may know myself and know Thee, that I may love Thee and despise myself.”³³

³³ Considerations from *Sketches for the Exercises of An Eight Days' Retreat*, by Hugo Hurter, S.J., Ph.D., D.D., Professor Emeritus of Theology in the Catholic University of Innsbruck, copyright 1918; third edition, 1926, St. Louis, MO and London, Page 274-275.

Additional note about the Fourth Motive

There is nothing higher than God. We learn in our Catechism that He is the Supreme Being. He has all perfections. If we ponder His attributes, which we humans can only do one at a time, we soon grow in admiration of Him. We are overawed by His immense qualities. We were naturally made to love God. If we follow our nature as we ought, our hearts desire God and are attracted to Him. As St. Augustine said, “Our hearts were made for Thee O Lord and are restless until they rest in Thee.” Since He is our final end, we can never be truly satisfied until we possess God completely. Our natural inclination is to soar up to God. These thoughts lead us to our colloquy.

Colloquy: O Infinite and Divine Majesty, how can I, a poor creature, ever thank Thee enough for all the many blessings Thou hast showered upon me? Thou hast created me rational and with an immortal soul. Would that I could even appreciate these two aspects alone! But in addition to these priceless gifts, Thou hast given me Thy Divine Son to be my soul’s Spouse and intimate Friend. This is the utmost treasure that any human could want! But alas, I am such a poor wretch who has not been grateful as I ought. I beg Thee, Dear Trinity, to help me study Thee and all Thy truths so I can learn to appreciate Thee and grow in an ever-deeper love of Thee. Help me to remain ever faithful to Thee so my soul can be Thy bride in time and in eternity. (I will end my colloquy with an *Our Father*.)

In our next lesson we will address St. Ignatius’s method for making a choice and his recommendations on penance.



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