



League of the Immaculate Heart Newsletter

"MY IMMACULATE HEART WILL TRIUMPH"

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On Perseverance, or "The violent bear it away"

by Saint Anthony Mary Claret
(condensed) (The Golden Key to Heaven, 338ff)

How

ow fortunate you are, O my soul! Now you can truly be called happy. He Who loves you has admitted you into His house, and opening the arms of His mercy, He has given you a place in the midst of His Heart.

He wants you to repay Him for this great love and the signs of affection which He has shown you, by opening to Him your heart and clinging to Him so firmly that you would never let Him go. You would do Him the most outrageous wrong if you would not accept this grace of a fond and favored familiarity with Him.

Then you would deserve that terrible woe of the Prophet Isaias — the woe against "apostate children"; "Woe to you, apostate children, saith the Lord, that you would take counsel, and not of Me: and would begin a web, and not by My spirit..." (Is. 30:1).

Woe to him who does not persevere with the Lord! Woe to him who quits His service! Alas for the ingratitude! Oh, what malice! Be astonished, ye Heavens! After God, in His overflowing love, has forgiven a sinner and has restored him to His grace, if the sinner is bold enough to gravely offend Him, he insolently declares to God, if not in words, at least by his actions: "I know not Thy favors. I am dissatisfied with Thy love. I am weary of serving Thee and so do not choose to serve Thee for the future. Satan will be my master. I put myself in his care and I am his slave. Down with Jesus! Long live satan!"

Do you not tremble, my soul, on hearing this language? Are you not filled with horror? Is it possible that you have no conscience about this deep in your heart? Where can we match an ingratitude so black, a treachery so unheard of, and a pride so mad? ...

Indeed, it is an insult to tell Thee plainly that sin is preferable to Thy grace, that it is more worthwhile to serve satan than Thee. That is what sinners do when they sin. They shut their eyes to Thy light in order to bury themselves in a pit of darkness. Alas for them!

In this very folly they have punishment. They have not wanted to see, and have remained blind. They have withdrawn from the source of All Good and have plunged into the sea of all evil. They have hated life and have fallen into the darkness of death. "If the just man turn himself away from his justice ... shall he live? No, he shall not live." (Ezech. 18:24).



St. Anthony Mary Claret

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While the tree stays planted beside the running stream of water, it will keep its greenness and vigor and in season it will bear fruit in abundance. But if it is uprooted and removed from the spot, it will promptly start withering, will shed its leaves, will bear no fruit, will dry up, and will only be good for firewood.

The same thing happens to a just man who does not persevere. As long as he sits by the streams of Divine grace, he is rich in virtue and merit for eternal life. But as soon as he removed himself by sin from that fertile soil, he serves no purpose but to consume himself in vice and in the end to enter the eternal fire.

Do you understand this, my soul? If you want to be saved, you must persevere in the good way you have begun. You must do this at all costs; for it is not beginnings that count so much as the end. Saint Paul began badly and ended well. Judas began well and ended badly. Paul is blessed and one of the greatest saints in paradise. Do you wish to be Judas or Paul?

The reward is offered to those who begin, but, as Saint Bernard says, is given only to those who persevere. The crown of glory is hanging over your head. To come to wear it, you must persevere, for perseverance alone will be crowned, as Saint Bonaventure rightly declares: Persevere, and it will be given to you. Jesus Christ Himself has pledged His word for it.

Read chapter 24 of Saint Matthew's Gospel and you will see that these words have come from His Divine Mouth: "*He that shall persevere to the end, he shall be saved.*" (verse 13). Be not deceived, my soul. The desire for salvation and an ineffective inclination to fulfill the means of salvation, are not enough. An effective will is necessary — one which goes ahead to perform the deeds needed for salvation.

Heaven and hell are full of men with desires, but with this difference: Those in hell stayed at a standstill with their desires, and those in Heaven put their hands to the task. The former were damned, and the latter were saved. You, too, should desire, proceed to the performance, and persevere, and you will be saved.

Here is where everything worthwhile for us lies. Therefore one must be whole-hearted, generous, and constant, without becoming frightened, no matter what the effort, the difficulty or the cost. The cost? Certainly it costs something. We should not hide the fact; for it

has been written, "*The Kingdom of Heaven suffereth violence, and the violent bear it away.*" (Mt. 11:12)

One must put down all evil cravings, conquer a rebellious flesh, subject a wayward will, be humble before God's Almighty Will, and submit to all of God's designs without giving any hearing to self-love or other enemies. Ah, this is the way, but a rough way, my soul.

One must keep following it, going ahead without turning back, without weakening. As for you, what will you do, my soul? Will you perhaps turn back? Ah, no. You have generously left a world which, like another wicked Pentapolis (Wisd. 10:6; Gen. 19:25), is burning in the flames of every vice. See that you are not like Lot's foolish wife, who turned her eyes back, and after changing into a statue of salt, was left on the road. (Gen. 19:26).

Saint Augustine tells you, my soul, to consider well this salt. Keep yourself from a great misfortune. Salt is a sign of prudence. Know to be prudent and take a warning from another's experience. Through God's Providence you have put your hand to the plough.

Continue to work out your eternal happiness, without becoming frightened at difficulties, and trusting that the Lord, Who inspired your generous thoughts, will give you the strength necessary to carry on to the end. †

Fatima Center events:

On the 13th of each month from May to October, the Fatima Center honors the visits of Our Lady to the three children at Fatima with Mass, recitation of the Holy Rosary, and a procession on Kraft Road in Fort Erie. If you are in the area, please join us. But if you cannot come, please unite your daily Rosary with ours to pray for the triumph of the Immaculate Heart.



Heroic Sanctity of Pope Saint Pius X

by Susan Vennari

The great “Pope of the Eucharist,” Saint Pius X, was born of pious peasant stock in 1835. Giuseppe Sarto was an intelligent and energetic child, but with an angelic quality that bespoke his vocation even at an early age. His natural abilities in his studies and his serious application to learning about God gained him assistance from those around him, such that he was able to attend school. Returning from the eight-mile round trip walk each day, he would accomplish his farm and family chores cheerily.

With serious purpose, prayer and patience, he prepared to become a priest. He finished his seminary studies with honors in every subject, and was granted a dispensation to be ordained at twenty-three, a year earlier than the canonical age.

After he had been a little while at his first assignment, the pastor wrote to a friend of this young cleric: “They have sent me a young man as curate, with orders to form him to the duties of a parish priest. I assure you it is likely to be the other way about. He is so zealous, so full of common sense and other precious gifts that I could find much to learn from him. Some day he will wear the mitre – of that I am certain – and afterwards? Who knows?”

The senior priest’s comments proved prophetic. The zeal with which the younger priest applied himself to his duties, the eloquence of his preaching, the humility of his being – all these testified to the virtues of the young priest. Father Sarto had planned his priestly life before his ordination: to study deeply, the better to preach well; to do as much good as possible in the confessional and from the pulpit; to help his people both materially and morally; to visit the sick, to succor the poor and to instruct the ignorant. As a priest, he gave himself over completely to this simple plan.

His career was built on a series of promotions given him for his abilities. To each new larger flock, he applied himself as diligently as he had done in his first assignment. With each weightier charge, he turned more completely to Our Lady and Our Lord for the graces to fulfill his duties of state.

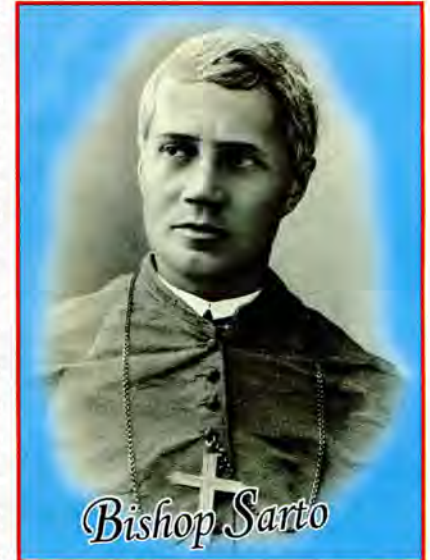
At the death of Pope Leo XIII, Cardinal Sarto set out from his see of Venice with full intention to return after the papal election. But as the conclave began its work, the mind of the electors became clearer with each scrutiny. “I am unworthy, I am not qualified,” he adjured his fellow electors. But his grief and profound humility convinced the conclave even more that Cardi-

nal Sarto was extraordinary. Some of his colleagues visited him one evening to beg him not to refuse the burden if God should call him to bear it. When he was finally elected, he accepted with resignation to the Divine Will. But he took up the office with every human effort and Divine grace to meet the responsibilities of the Universal Shepherd.

Pope Saint Pius X rose to the papacy against his wishes.

He accepted the responsibility of office gravely. Trusting in Our Lord and Our Lady, he plunged into the work that God had asked of him. With zeal he countered the old heresy of Jansenism and the encroaching heresy of Modernism. He addressed political problems, doctrinal errors, renewal of the priesthood, abuses in the liturgy — and much more. He is the first Pope since his predecessor of 350 years, Pope Saint Pius V, to have been canonized. In the month of his feast day, it is a joy to recall his teaching, which never departed from what the Church has always said and done since the time of Jesus Christ.

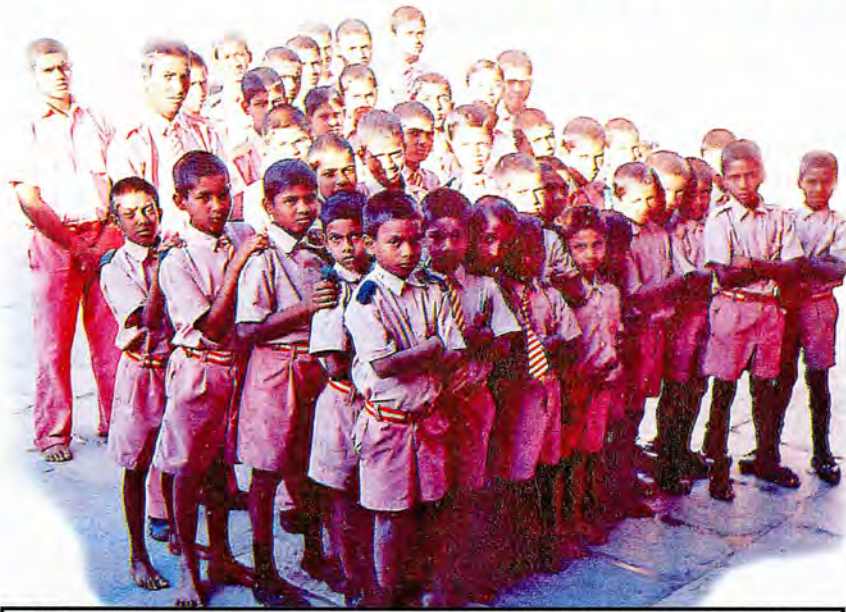
On the priesthood: “I ask you, therefore, to remember the words of the Apostle: ‘Walk carefully, that our ministry be not blamed’; let our actions be such that our enemies shall find nothing in us worthy of reproach. You are full of zeal for souls: seek to win them



Bishop of Mantua portrait: Giuseppe Sarto fulfilled the resolutions he made before his priesthood throughout his life in every office from cleric, to Bishop (as pictured here), to Cardinal, and to Pope.

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News from India



Of the 41 boys at the orphanage, seven graduated from grade ten to begin pre-university studies. One has entered the seminary!

Eighty children, ranging from six to fourteen years, live at the orphanage. This past year, eight girls and seven boys graduated from grade ten to start pre-university. One of the boys, P. Praveen Kumar joined the seminary to begin studies for the priesthood. Please continue your prayers for all these young people. They pray for you, especially on feastdays such as the Immaculate Heart of Mary. They begin the day with Holy Mass, followed by special prayers for all the sponsors. Then come the festivities, with art competitions and other cultural programs and, of course, special foods to celebrate the day! †

HEROIC SANCTITY OF POPE SAINT PIUS X

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rather by love than by fear. The supreme wish of Our Lord for His own was that they should love one another, and this wish found its fulfillment in apostolic times, when the Christians were one heart and one soul in Christ. A priest's life is a continual warfare against evil, which cannot fail to raise up powerful enemies. In order that they may not prevail against us, let us be united in charity amongst ourselves; thus we shall be invincible and strong as a rock."

On the Eucharist: "Holy Communion is the shortest and surest way to Heaven. There are others, innocence, for instance, but that is for little children; penance, but we are afraid of it; generous endurance of the trials of life, but when they come we weep and ask to be spared. Once and for all, beloved children, the surest, easiest, shortest way is by the Eucharist. It is so easy to approach the holy table, and there we taste the joys of Paradise."

On science: "The Catholic faith has nothing to fear from knowledge, but much from ignorance."

On the rich and poor: "Tell the rich to be generous in almsgiving; tell the poor to be proud of being chosen as the loving representatives of Christ on earth. Bid them neither envy nor hate others, but have res-

ignation and patience."

To some peasant visitors from Moravia: "I bless you all, great and small, rich and poor, the good that they may remain good; those who have strayed from the right path, that they may come back to it; parents that they may bring up their children well; children that they may honor the white hairs of their parents and the country that has nourished them."

Lastly: The great Pope forbade any outbreak of the applause which had become customary at papal services. "It is not fitting that the servant should be applauded in his Master's house."

Truly, this saintly Supreme Pontiff bore well the daily Cross he invoked for his own pontificate: "to restore all things in Christ." *Pope Saint Pius X, pray for us.* (Feast Day: Sept. 3) †

We'd like to hear from YOU! Write or call:

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