

Snippets from Fr. Tierney's Daily Log Book

Virtues and Gifts

THE DIVINE VIRTUES are theological and cardinal. They are called Divine because they are gifts from God with sanctifying grace.

The Theological Virtues are faith, hope and charity, and listed in 1 Corinthians 13:13. They are given by God; they are directly about God; and God is their motive.

The Cardinal Virtues are moral virtues, and listed in Wisdom 8:7. They are prudence, justice, temperance and fortitude. The cardinal virtues are both Divine and natural, the former enhancing the latter, since grace builds on nature.

The Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit are listed below. Compare Isaiah 11:2. They are gifts *infused* into the soul at Baptism along with sanctifying grace, and are retained by everyone in the state of grace.

They are give anew at Confirmation, sacrament of the lay apostolate, which is a spiritual Pentecost for sharing the faith with others, i.e. building up the Church.

Do not confuse them with the **Twelve Fruits of the Spirit**, which are love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, generosity, gentleness, faithfulness, modesty, self-control and chastity; (in Galations 5:22-23). See Newsletter n. 164 for details, and how St Jerome translated the Greek text of the New Testament with its Nine Fruits into 12 words in Latin. Note how the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* §736 lists nine fruits; while §1832 has twelve.

| VIRTUES — three theological and four cardinal | SEVEN GIFTS of the Holy Spirit given by God to strengthen and make effective the theological and cardinal virtues | Gifts with new names in the ICEL translation of the Bishop's prayer with outstretched hands calling down the Holy Spirit on Confirmation candidates |
|---|---|---|
| Faith | Understanding | |
| Hope | Holy Fear, The Fear of the Lord | Wonder and awe in God's presence |
| Charity | Wisdom | |
| Prudence | Counsel | Right judgement |
| Justice | Piety | Reverence |
| Temperance | Knowledge | |
| Fortitude | Fortitude | Courage |

This is how St Thomas Aquinas matched up the Seven Gifts with the Seven Virtues. His matching helps us appreciate the distinctiveness of each of the Gifts, which might otherwise be hard to discern. See the entries under "Gifts" in the *Modern Catholic Dictionary*, by Father John Hardon SJ. Its pocket size is still in print.

The Traditional Roman Rite of the Mass—the Tridentine Mass

POPE BENEDICT XVI has proved his patient pastoral tenacity in freeing up the use of the old Liturgy. With the stroke of a pen, he has negated much of the shallow euphoria of the last 44 years.

From 14th September, 2007, any priest of the Roman Rite may use the old *Roman Missal* of 1962, and he may have a congregation of those who wish to attend.

What is more, he can use the old *Roman Ritual* for the Sacraments and other rites such as funerals at the request of the faithful, and the old *Breviary*.

The Old Latin Mass will not be forced on anyone. But abuses in the vernacular Mass are to be removed in favour of sacred reverence for the Divine realities.

BENEFITS

1. Individual priest and lay members of **The Society of St Pius X, SSPX**, may now feel they can come back into a more regular relationship with the Pope.

Corporate reunion is the ultimate goal. The mail-out of the SSPX Australian superior, Father Edward Black, has the Pope's full text and letter to the world's bishops, plus positive comment on both from

Bishop Fellay, Superior General of SSPX. Those who in sadness **or bitterness** are tempted to give up on their parish's English Mass might now take heart with new hope.

4. **The Reform of the Reform** will also take heart. This is a strategy proposed by Father Brian Harrison, an Australian priest working in the USA, who in 1982 was forced out of the Sydney seminary for upholding the Resurrection against the demythologizers, and objective morality against the relativizers.

He suggests the Church reform the 1970 "reform" in terms of (a) Vatican II's 1963 Liturgy Constitution (signed by Archbishop Lefebvre); and (b) weigh up the 1970 reform's pastoral advantages and disadvantages.

His Reform idea was popularized in the USA and Australia by Father Joseph Fessio S.J., and continues with a monthly publication, *Adoremus*, "Let us Adore".

The then Cardinal Ratzinger wholeheartedly agreed with Fr Harrison's proposals; likewise the Prefect of the Congregation of Divine Worship was sympathetic.

The laity who are desperate for a truly sacred celebration of the *Novus Ordo* Mass might even vote with their feet or use dollar deprivation as persuaders.

FAITH, HOPE and CHARITY

We must all **be very patient with each other**, and beware of Satan working to divide and conquer us.

We must **practise much faith, hope and charity**, to make the Pope's plan work, for the glory of God and the salvation of souls.

Psycho Knee Jerks

KNEE JERKS are reflexes being tested by a doctor tapping your leg with a hammer just below the knee to see if it makes you kick. If it does, you're OK.

There are also psychological knee jerks, especially in how we react to one another. Both God and society hold us responsible for our psychological reflexes. After all, we have freewill and duties to others.

Psycho knee jerks are for better or for worse, just like marriage and many other life-situations.

It was Bruce Marshall, in *Father Malachy's Miracle* (I think) who described two sorts of priests:

- Some priests never frown if they can possibly smile.
- Others never smile if they can possibly frown.

Similarly, there are folk who:

- Never disagree if they can possibly agree with you.
- Others who never agree if they can possibly disagree.

The latter even phrase any grudging concession of their rare agreement negatively: "You haven't got an argument." Their reasoning is that they themselves *always* have an argument, and about everything!

- Think of the old song in the musical, *Oklahoma*: "

"Where seldom is heard, a discouraging word, "and the skies are not cloudy all day."

The unhappy opposite is also around:

- "Where never is heard, an encouraging word, "and the skies are clouded all day."

What's to be done with the exporters of gloom?

Often they cannot be told. Not only do they ignore advice, they even resent suggestions.

- "Of excitement and praise they are chary, "There is nothing much good upon earth; "Their watchword is *nil admirari*, [nothing is to be admired] "They are bored from the days of their birth."

A Voice from the Town, by Banjo Paterson.

An ultimate in contrariness is the declaration:

- "Don't try and tell me what to do; "and if you do try it, I'll do the opposite."

Such is the pathetic utterance of an anti-intellectual. He has ceased to think of true or false, right or wrong, and often has sycophants. He boasts, "I'm boss, and no one is going to put it over me."

But sycophants twist him round a little finger.

- Mental pusillanimity is the mark of a weak leader.
- Magnanimity is a mark of strength.

Note the leadership qualities of a classroom teacher when he manages to weave even the wrong answers of his pupils into the tapestry of his lesson planned for truth and goodness. Note that this is the way God works with the world of fallen man: His wisdom and mercy bring good out of evil, and truth out of error.

Phony Thinking from False Syllogisms

POLITICIANS: Something must be done about such-and-such. This is something.

Therefore we'll do it. (Borrowed from *Yes, Prime Minister*)

TRENDIES: Vatican II changed everything for the better.

Here is something I want to do.

Therefore whatever I do is for the better.

Hymns

TWO hymns dear to Catholic faith and piety are of great ecumenical importance.

1. The ***Stabat Mater***, "At the Cross her station keeping", is found in the people's Weekday Missal for Our Lady of Sorrows on 15th September, where it is an **optional Sequence** after the response to the reading and before the Alleluia of the Gospel. It has also been added to the *Novus Ordo* Latin Breviary, but not the English, and spread over Matins, Lauds and Vespers, (Office of Readings, and Morning and Evening Prayer).

It is based on John 19:26-27: "Woman, behold thy son" — "Behold thy mother." As well as its poetic beauty, its extensive use of Scripture might well win over those suspicious of Catholic devotion to Our Lady to see her as our supreme model of discipleship.

2. The ***Dies Irae***, "O Day of Wrath", is based on Zephaniah (=Sophonias) 1:15,18, "That day is a day of wrath... the day of the wrath of the Lord".

Handouts n. 37 has it in Latin and English, with background notes. Paper copies available on request.

It is the greatest of all the Latin hymns. As far back as 1895 it had 234 translations, including that of the famous Protestant novelist, Sir Walter Scott.

Alas, it was dropped from the *Novus Ordo* Mass but is tenuously preserved in the *Novus Ordo The Liturgy of the Hours* (Latin only, not in English), for optional use in the 34th week of the liturgical year, after Christ the King till Advent. Again, it is divided into three parts spread over Matins, Lauds and Vespers.

It is the sequence in all Tridentine Masses for the dead, which is now available on request for funerals, where there is a priest to celebrate it.

In it, Protestant Christians will find the Biblical riches of our Catholic faith in Our Lord and the Last Things. They might begin to believe in Purgatory.

Check Digits

IDENTIFICATION numbers abound in modern life, e.g. Medicare cards and ISBN numbers in books. A computer can usually tell if such numbers are copied wrongly by a check digit at the end.

Check digits are akin to inviting a guest on a specific day and date, such as Sunday, 16th September, 2007. If the day of the week and the date of the month do not match, one enquires further to get it right.

A variant is adding the saint's day to a secular date.

Espionage, Sabotage and Subversion

- **ESPIONAGE:** Satan spies out our liberty in Christ Jesus (c.f. Galatians 2:4), **looking for any chinks** in our armoury of virtues. See *The Screwtape Letters*.
- **SABOTAGE:** Satan aims to **twist our virtues out of proportion**, even little, to get us off course. Cultivate prudence and temperance as counter measures. Our Christian life is a warfare. Texts on request.
- **SUBVERSION:** Satan aims to **corrupt our beliefs and attitudes**, progressing through imperfections, temptations, venial sins, mortal sins, apostasy, atheism, to stony hearts hardened against repentance, hence Hell.