

A Thought To Remember

The Sacramental Presence of Christ in the world depends entirely on a valid and a spiritually formed
PRIESTHOOD.

LET US NOT BE SURPRISED

Let us not be surprised and let us not wonder that Jesus should have called any of us to the heights of perfection. That we are asked to work toward perfection in the life of the soul is not a cause for wonderment, but to be called to the very heights of perfection is a cause for wonderment. We obtain our information directly from Sacred Scripture itself where the Word of Christ is carefully recorded in this instance by St. Matthew, "Be you therefore perfect as also your heavenly Father is perfect." We ask, "How can this be?" What Christ commands is, indeed, quite impossible. Yet He had no hesitation in proposing it to us. His teaching is only too clear, and we are confronted by it throughout all of Sacred Scripture. He is simply telling us that the soul must never leave the path - THE CONVERSIO - to sanctification and that the soul must never, ever, slacken its efforts in that regard. There is no way that we can avoid the CONVERSIO, no matter how hard we may try.

Nevertheless, even though we all agree that the command is impossible to fulfill, yet none of us, weak and sinful creatures that we are, are dispensed from striving toward that high peak with all our will and strength and thought and determination and constant effort.

Let us be ever mindful that with God it is not the actual success that counts. It is rather the sincere and determined work of the WILL that God looks at and counts with merciful love, and judges in accordance with His merciful designs. The struggle to avoid sin is relentless, and we are forever cautioned never to lay down our weapons in our fight against sin. However relentless, if our will is determined to avoid evil and to do good, we can surely count on the love of our good God, and that love will sustain us and nourish us as we travel the dangerous paths that daily we have to follow, and overcome the evils that threaten us from all sides. For us, then, it remains that we respond generously to the grace of God, "You must be perfect." This grace, however, is not granted to all in equal measure, but in accordance with God's merciful designs and in accordance to the proper disposition of each individual soul. It is not an automatic gift! It is not a gift given simply for the asking! Whatever reward is forthcoming to us, in the last analysis all depends on the work - the very hard work - on our part to do good and avoid sin. Flimsy