

REALISM IN PIETY

It was always a matter of importance in days gone by that the spirit of piety be fostered amongst priests and people. In monasteries and convents of former times, piety was fostered with great diligence – not any more! But the necessity of piety is just as important, if not more so, today. Somehow, we have to return to the sane realism of piety. Those responsible for the spiritual formation and welfare of souls are obligated to teach the souls under their care, how to come to “TOUCH GOD”! How many there are today, even in high places, who have no notion about this religious dimension – the interior life – nor the importance of it. Traditionalist teaching and preaching and writing seems to have turned its full attention to dialectics, to the detriment of souls crying out for SPIRITUAL nourishment. Whoever is responsible for souls, and who makes use of today’s means of communication, is under the strictest obligation to instruct, and show both priests and people how to “realize” the presence of God.

Souls in today’s world, more than ever before, must be instructed about the action of grace within them. This is not an easy instruction, but it is possible, provided the efficacy of prayer and self-sacrifice is taught with equal emphasis. We have to put aside the false notion that logic is the proper instrument to reach the heart of man. Logic has never saved a soul. Logic and reason are bulwarks of our faith, but they cannot and do not spark the soul to belief. Belief comes only through the acceptance of God’s grace.

A warning to all concerned: only prayer, fasting, self-sacrifice, and the **honest example** of the genuinely pious life of spiritual leaders will bring willing souls to a life of true holiness. □

The Grace of Final Perseverance

The greatest grace that we can ever obtain in this life is the grace of final perseverance in the state of grace. Everything depends upon the state in which death finds our soul. If it is in the state of sanctifying grace, we shall be saved. If death finds us in the state of unrepented mortal sin, we shall be forever damned. It is that simple, and that serious! Hence the crucial importance of always remaining in the state of grace, and of vigilantly guarding this eternal treasure with prayer, prudence, purity, and patience. No matter the circumstance surrounding our death, whether it is preceded by a long illness, intense suffering, or if it come like a thief in the night, totally unexpected and sudden, if we die in the state of grace, we will die a happy and holy death. Strictly speaking, we