

In the Days of Long Ago

In the days that were before the great war, good Catholic Children of God were people of prayer. Not one of them, it must be noted, ever mentioned or bragged about “tradition.” They lived it. Tradition was an abiding spirit among the Catholic folks of those days that could not be seen physically; it could not be measured. Nobody wrote seriously about it. Tradition was a life of grace that issued attitudes of trust, and joy, welcoming genuine humility, hope, encouragement, good example, restraint, and peace. Those people were constant in their way of living and they kept the love of that spirit throughout their entire lives.

Christian tradition ought basically to be defined as charity. Each person of that era tried to reach the ideals of the virtues of Jesus Christ. They admired and worked to develop the virtues of humility, of honesty, of obedience, of nobility of mind and soul, of holiness, of devotion toward God, of unbroken love for God. They respected the human and spiritual rights of other persons. They were conscientious in their intent on receiving the sacraments and displayed a right and proper love for the holy precepts of their religious beliefs. They believed. They lived according to the promptings of their beliefs. Their pursuit of goodness and that which was right and just was wonderful to behold, and actually seems to have radiated from them. When they went to church they went there to pray — not to be entertained. They were serious. Were those people above doing wrong or committing sin? Not at all! They made use of their good and dedicated priests who kept them in line, who picked them up when they were down. They were people of prayer. □

