

## The Sanctification of our Daily Duties

Prof. Américo Pablo López-Ortiz

International President of the World Apostolate of Fatima

In Fatima, reparation is offered in a threefold path: Penance, reparatory prayer and reparatory Holy Communion.

The spirit of Penance is understood in its double significance as:

1. Bearing our own personal cross, conforming our souls to Christ's himself, by patiently accepting God's will, including suffering in the same lifestyle attitude exhibited in Mary's fiat ("I am the handmaid of the Lord...").
2. Offering our own personal mortifications and privations as to exercise ourselves in the "Christian art of Renunciation" so that we can also become Christ's disciples, as to strengthen our will in the pursuit of true love, CHARITY. It is through this well ordained love that we will pursue those objectives of actual value in life, according to God's hierarchy in Creation. Fatima is most useful today in clarifying our own scale of values, following not human logics, but God's logics, so different to that of mankind "that is easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter into God's kingdom."

The New Evangelization is based on witnessing Jesus Christ in our lives, becoming true disciples, bearing our personal cross and walking through life doing our best to build the Kingdom of God on earth. We do this by sanctifying our daily duties. In this way, we proclaim to the world the values and attitudes of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. He has transformed our lives and we are at peace in the midst of suffering and trial. Jesus Christ is the root and cause of our happiness. "Look how much they love each other" was said of the first Christian communities.

We need to express our Faith in concrete deeds that may seem completely natural but that are really transformed by God's grace.

The Good Lord sanctifies our daily routine as we deepen ourselves into an interior life shared with Him. Everything is then transformed in His presence. God dwells in ourselves, we share His life, grace and mercy and we must irradiate it among our neighbors. This is the true religion, fed by the sacraments, mostly by the Eucharist, by prayer and penance. The fruits excel themselves: Inner peace and spiritual joy!

The revitalizing penance, understood in its most important significance, as was taught by the Angel of Fatima, is the sanctification of our daily duties: “Make of everything you can a sacrifice, and offer it to God, as an act of reparation for the sins by which He is offended, and in supplication for the conversion of sinners. You will draw down peace upon your country... Above all, accept and bear with submission, the suffering which the Lord will send you.”

Our world needs this revolutionary idea to be spread among so many who dwell in egocentric and selfish practices, ruining their lives and those of their beloved ones and throwing themselves to destructive pleasures and vices. The true Gospel of Jesus Christ must be made known in its authentic splendor. By sanctifying our daily duties we grow in the image of Jesus Christ, the Son, who obeyed the Heavenly Father and followed His plans, lovingly, offering His sufferings for our redemption.

The sanctification of our daily duties will crush the evil in our souls, it will forgive our faults, thus improving the spiritual health of the Mystical Body of Christ, the Church, “which today suffers and bleeds for so many afflicted parts” (Pope Paul VI). Therefore, let us contribute to “the economy of grace” whereby the situation of the People of God improves when one of His sons and daughters return to the sheepfold, as is taught to us by the doctrine of “the communion of saints”.