

Reflections

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Put the House in Order

From time to time one must put the house in order: clean it up, fix it up, take out the trash and the things which are useless and unnecessary. This way, one can live better and happier.

What we say about the material house applies even more so to the Spiritual world. We know that Lent is the proper time for conversion, change, renewal. It is the time to bring order in our life and in our heart.

- Without realizing it, we pay less attention to the Lord, and then our interior life becomes disordered and weak.
- We put prayer aside, that is frequent contact with God, and we become engrossed in personal interests, and the things and worries of the world.
- We do not try to grow, to advance spiritually, and then we become stagnant or even go backwards in our religious life. Then there is the danger of becoming indifferent or spiritually lukewarm.

In this way, it may happen that God becomes second, third or even slowly disappear from our life. Then other gods take their place in our heart.

These are the idols which Holy Scripture speaks to us about: “Do not make idols for yourselves.” They create a growing dependence in us and slowly enslave us.

What idols might they be? There are a great number of idols which can take the place of God in our life. The best known are money and material goods, the desire for power, sex, and all types of unbridled ambition.

But there can also be smaller gods which require our surrender and excessive attention, for example, addiction to work, to food, to drink, to the television, and to consumerism.

Christ invites us today to expel all idols from our heart in order to give Him first place.

Something similar can happen not only in our own interior but also in our family; for example, we do not take time for in-depth dialog and it becomes harder for us to understand each other.

Periods of silence and rough discussions begin. We no longer look with interest for occasions of being together and we begin to feel that we only share superficially and no longer share intimate ideals.....then, evidently, the house must be put in order.

For this reason there is Lent: to put God’s house in order, the Spiritual temple of one’s own heart, the home, the Church. It is a time of purification for the great universal Church and for the small domestic church.

God offers us His word and His grace so that we can well order our lives. He knows our needs and possibilities. He knows our conveniences and the dangers. His commandments are an expression of love, an invaluable help to put into order our lives.

Dear brothers and sisters, if we do not decide to embrace this task with strength and joy, it is possible that God Himself will take care to call it to our attention. His methods can be very persuasive and forceful. His love is so great that He does not hesitate to recover our love and our attention when He sees they are weakening.

Questions for reflection

1. How could I initiate order in my interior life?
2. What are my idols today?
3. How is my prayer life? Do I have time for prayer?

If you wish to comment on this text or give a testimony, write to: pn.reflexiones@gmail.com

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