

Reflections

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Hidden Inner/Interior Resources

One of the greatest desires of Father Joseph Kentenich, founder of the Schoenstatt Movement, was to educate the interiorly free man.....free of everything contra-divine in order to be fully free for God and his Will. And one of the greatest obstacles on that journey of Christian freedom is egoism (selfishness), that small tyrant within ourselves.....because it is easier to detach ourselves from things or from the attachment to other persons, than to detach ourselves from the attachment (fondness/affection) to ourselves. Instead of revolving around God, we revolve more around ourselves. And as a product of that egoism (selfishness), we find the hidden inner/ interior resources of our nature: those things which we keep for ourselves and which we are not disposed for offering to the Lord.

Which are our hidden inner/interior resources which impede our total surrender to God? Which are the things we keep for ourselves and which we are not disposed to placing into the hands of God? We can distinguish two types:

1. Comprehension/understanding resources

Today's man wants to guarantee and understand everything with reason. But in life, we find ourselves with a great deal of darkness which human reason cannot comprehend. It is also difficult for us to accept the things which are incomprehensible and unexplainable to the faith. It is hard for us to take mortal leaps into the hands of God, enlightened only by the light of faith. It is hard for us to surrender to the Father our human intelligence and to allow ourselves to be guided by Him through the dispositions and guidance which we cannot achieve to penetrate.....because He leads us, often, through dark paths which we cannot understand.

My personal task is, then, to find my comprehension/understanding resources. And when I have discovered them, I then have to place a ladder to understand each one of my resources.....to go up the ladder and up there meet God. And up there, I can ask Him: What do You want to tell me with this? What is your desire behind this? And afterward I have to also place the ladder to the heart.....because if I do not work through and embrace the darkneses of life also with the heart, I cannot become an interiorly free man.

2. Resources from the heart and the will

The heart and the will also have their hidden resources. Egoism (selfishness) can appear, for example, as comfortableness: how often do we seek to justify our bourgeois way of life and our comfortableness because we lack a spirit of sacrifice. Or, we refuse to change our point of view, our way of working or thinking because we have already become accustomed to it, because they have become routine for us.

Now, if we think of the future, we can discover a quantity of secret resources. For a serious examination, each one would have to review all the imaginable possibilities. What am I not disposed to surrender to God? Will I give Him everything except this or that? Which will be hardest for me?

We have to know the hidden resources which nestle in our heart and we have to eliminate them. They are obstacles on our journey toward sanctity, toward God. They enslave our very "self" and they impede our surrendering to the Father. We should not rest until we are able to say: Father, if you want exactly this or that which is so hard for me, then I ask You to send it to me. It is this way of the Cross which will lead us toward perfect inner freedom.

We are to surrender to God our understanding, our heart, and especially our will. Our own will should grow toward a fuller harmony with the least wishes of God, toward total submission and conformity with his divine Will. This is perfect freedom for the children of God.

The great model of this spirit of total abandonment is the Virgin Mary. At the hour of the Annunciation, with her "Fiat" (let it be done according to your will) she gave God the full liberty of doing with her whatever He wanted.

Questions for reflection

1. Do we take seriously our struggle for interior freedom?
2. Do we aspire for the highest level of sanctity? Or do we remain half way?

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