



TORINO 2024

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ON THE FOOTSTEPS OF THE SAINTS AND WITNESSES
WHO PUT THEIR LIVES AT THE SERVICE OF BROTHERS AND SISTERS.
PRAYER

COMMON PART.

INTRODUCTION

The attitude to feel as their own the condition of hardship of others, solidarity in the name of common humanity and listening to the Gospel have moved the saints and prophets of Turin, who put their lives at the service of brothers and sisters with whom the Lord Jesus identifies: *the charity of Christ has driven them.*

BEGINNING

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. AMEN.

READING of the Word of God.

The Gospel of Matthew (25, 31-40)

"When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit upon his glorious throne, and all the nations will be assembled before him. And he will separate them one from another, as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will place the sheep on his right and the goats on his left. Then the king will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father. Inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry, and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me, in prison and you visited me.' Then the righteous will answer him and say, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? When did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? When did we see you ill or in prison, and visit you?' And the king will say to them in reply, 'Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me.'

BRIEF REFLECTION

Serving Christ in the Poor

The Son of God chose to be born poor, to receive the poor in his company, to serve the poor, to put himself in the place of the poor, to the point of saying that the good or evil that we do to the poor, he will hold as done to his divine person. God loves the poor, and, consequently, he loves those who love the poor. In reality, when we love someone very much, we show affection for their friends and servants. Thus, we have reason to hope that, for love of them, God will also love us. [...]

The service of the poor must be preferred to everything else. There must be no delays. If at the hour of prayer, you have to bring medicine or aid to a poor person, go there calmly.

Offer your action to God, uniting to it the intention of prayer. You must not worry or believe that you have failed, if for the service of the poor you have left prayer. It is not leaving God, when we leave God for God, that is, one work of God to do another.

[From some *Spiritual Letters and Conferences* of St. Vincent de Paul, priest. Cf. Lett, 2546, *Correspondance, entretiens, documents*, Paris 1922-1925, passim]



PRAYING WITH THE PSALMS

Salmo 34

RIT: Blessed is the one who takes refuge in Him.

I will extol the Lord at all times;
his praise will always be on my lips.
I will glory in the Lord;
let the afflicted hear and rejoice.
Glorify the Lord with me;
let us exalt his name together. RIT.

This poor man called, and the Lord heard him;
he saved him out of all his troubles.
The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear him,
and he delivers them.
The righteous cry out, and the Lord hears them;
he delivers them from all their troubles. RIT.

Taste and see that the Lord is good;
blessed is the one who takes refuge in him.
Fear the Lord, you his holy people,
for those who fear him lack nothing. RIT.

Turn from evil and do good;
seek peace and pursue it. RIT.

San Giovanni Bosco

Remember that education is a matter of the heart, and that only God is the master, and we will not succeed in anything, if God does not teach us the art, and he gives us the keys in his hand. We therefore procure in all ways and also with this humble and complete dependence to take possession of this fortress always closed to rigor and harshness.

[From his Letters]

PRAYER

O God, who raised up St. John Bosco in your Church
to be a teacher and father to the young,
grant that, inspired by his virtues,
we may labour for the salvation of souls,
dedicating ourselves wholeheartedly to the spiritual
and physical welfare of the young.
Through Christ our Lord. AMEN

CONCLUDING PRAYER

Our Father God, may the admirable testimony of your saints
and of those who for your love





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have become servants of your brothers and sisters
spur us on to love and service for our neighbor.
We ask this through Christ our Lord, your Son,
who became the servant of all and last of all.

AMEN.

FOR PERSONAL PRAYER

Beato Pier Giorgio Frassati

We, by approaching the poor, little by little become their confidants and counselors in the most terrible moments of this earthly pilgrimage; we insinuate to them those comforting words dictated to us by faith, and so many times we succeed, not by our own merit, in bringing onto the right path people who had strayed not out of wickedness. Assisting daily the faith with which families often bear the most atrocious sorrows, the perpetual sacrifice that they make, and that they do all this for the love of God, so many times makes us ask this question: I who have received so many things from God, have I always remained so lazy, so bad, while they who have not been as privileged as I, are infinitely better than me?

[From his *Notes for a Discourse on Charity*]

PRAYER

O Father, who gave
to the blessed young Pier Giorgio Frassati
the joy of encountering Christ
in faith and charity,
through his intercession
grant that we too may spread
among the people of our time
the spirit of the evangelical beatitudes.

Through Christ our Lord. AMEN

Giuseppe Allamano

The Church entrusts to us the great mandate of evangelizing the world, which she received from our Lord. It is the work of works (...). And it is a great gift from Jesus, but it is also a great duty on our part. We must strive with all our might in this holy ministry (...).

Remember, however, that it is not enough to preach, but it is necessary to carry out all the works and all the sacrifices that the apostolic life requires, whatever the cost. Let us work, let us work - exclaimed Fr. Giuseppe Cafasso - we will rest in Paradise!

According to St. John Chrysostom, no priest can be saved, if he does not work for the salvation of souls. We must have zeal, we must work first, (...) we must make our own the words of the Apostle: "I do all for the Gospel" (1 Cor 9:23).

[From the *Spiritual Conferences* of Blessed Giuseppe Allamano]

PRAYER

O Father, source of every gift,
who made Blessed Giuseppe Allamano
a formator of priests
and father of missionary families



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for the proclamation of the Gospel to all peoples,
grant us to grow in the same zeal
even to give our lives for our brothers.

Through Christ our Lord. AMEN

Giuseppe Cafasso

The widest field, the almost immense space in which a confessor must eminently shine and radiate, is charity. (...)

First of all, charity will keep the confessor always ready to welcome penitents, always prepared to go when he is called, like a diligent and solicitous servant hastening wherever the voice of his Lord summons him; no time, no place excepted, neither day nor night. He is ready in church, in his room, anywhere: he is always at the beck and call of whoever asks for him. (...) Even insults in the confessional must meet with no other defense than patience, gentleness, charity. (...) The priest is placed to take the place, to play the role on earth, of that great Mercy who wills that all be saved and who precisely waits and puts up with so much, because he does not want to punish.

[From the *Spiritual Exercises to the Clergy* by St. Joseph Cafasso]

PRAYER

O Lord, our God,
who filled St. Joseph Cafasso
with your spirit of charity and wisdom
to form in the school of the Gospel
the ministers of the word and forgiveness,
grant us too
to become instruments of your mercy.

Through Christ our Lord. AMEN

