

The Light Shines in the Darkness - Parish Mission 2020
Come to Me

At that time Jesus said in reply, “I give praise to you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, for although you have hidden these things from the wise and the learned you have revealed them to the childlike. Yes, Father, such has been your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father. No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son wishes to reveal him.

“Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart; and you will find rest for yourselves. For my yoke is easy, and my burden light.” (*Mt 11:25-30*)

Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I complete what is lacking in Christ’s afflictions for the sake of his body, that is, the church. (*Col 1:4*)

Let us look at the lives of the unsuccessful saints, I mean those priests, religious, or ordinary Christians who are excellent, fervent, zealous, pious, and devoted, but who, nevertheless, are not saints.

We look to see what is missing. It is not a deep interior life, nor a sincere love of God and of souls, but rather the lack of a certain completeness in their renunciation, a certain depth of abnegation and total self-forgetfulness which would have surrendered them to God’s work in them.

To love God, to praise him, to tire oneself out, even to kill oneself in his service –so many things attracts religious souls. But to die totally to self, obscurely in the silence of one’s soul, to detach oneself, to let oneself be detached completely through grace from everything that is not the pure will of God –that is the secret holocaust before which most souls draw back. It is the precise point where their road forks between a fervent life and a life of high sanctity. (De Guibert)

You have been always saying ‘do with me whatever you wish.—Now I want to act—let me do it —My own little one. —Let me act. —Refuse me not. —Will you refuse? Will you refuse to this for me? (*Come Be My Light*, p. 49)

Your best servant is he who is not so much concerned to hear from you what he wills as to will what he hears from you. (Augustine, *Confessions X,26*)

Questions for Personal Reflection

- How is the Lord Jesus calling me to Himself?
- Do I see the potential of seeing my sufferings as a meaningful contribution to the Church?
- Am I called to be a saint or simply a fervent person?
- What is the Lord asking of me? Will I refuse?