

Gift of Piety

Jesus tells us in the Gospel of John (15:5)

“I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever remains in me and I in him will bear much fruit, because without me you can do nothing.”

“Without me you can do nothing.” This is so true. Day Six novena says... *“If you take the time to learn to listen to Me, I will give you My gift of Piety.”* Piety means holiness.

If you take the time to learn to listen. Listening has always been extremely hard for me. Over the years, I have been praying and asking God to help me to be a better listener. Only to learn, that I must not only be a good listener to people, but more importantly to God. What a revelation!

With so many distractions in this world it’s just so hard to “Be Still”. Another thing our Lord says in his word. *“Be still and know that I Am God.”* (Psalm 46) This is something I continually hear from that little voice inside (who I know to be our dear friend the Holy Spirit).

At one point in my life, I didn’t think a holy person could be someone who had a normal day to day life like each one of us. If you look at the saints you’ll see how fully human they were. They were ordinary people like you and me, but when they responded to God He did extraordinary things with them.

Every one of us is capable thru the action of the Holy Spirit ...of living and being a holy person. And the best part is that God lets you still be you! Because you are, who He created and He wants you to be yourself! That is precisely what has happened with the saints and is still happening today.

What we need are **Spiritual Acts to nourish our piety** to build our relationship with the Lord... such as Quite time with the Lord, receiving the Eucharist as often as possible (I like to say I need U Christ, get it, Eucharist), visits to the Blessed Sacrament, Eucharistic Adoration, receiving the sacrament of Reconciliation, praying the rosary, reading scripture, and the list goes on and on.

There are so many ways we can spend time in spiritual acts nourishing our holiness. When we do this, we grow closer in our relationship with God.

A life of holiness is not an easy one. You see that with the saints. My own life of piety has been one of constant growth. It’s a continual ongoing process. For me, I have realized that trials were... and still are necessary in building my faith and

trust in God, and calling me toward a life of holiness with God. Each time I go thru trials, I find the more I depend on God and make Christ my center I change and am still changing.

This is how God works with me. Remember we are all unique and different. I like to think of us as snowflakes, each one unique and different. So remember, God will work with each of us in His own special way depending on how He created us. This is why relationship with our Lord is so crucial to our growth in holiness.

Matthew chapter 6:33. ***“Seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given you.”*** We need to seek to have that personal intimate relationship. We need to know Him in a deeper way.

We must remember that God Has created a beautiful painting and we are all a part of this beautiful painting. His word says ***we are created in His image and His likeness***. Now that’s special!

A life of holiness is a life that’s shared. It’s when we allow ourselves to be truly present to others. We need to share our time with people even when we are pressed for time or even when we think it’s inconvenient to us. There are times when we all fall short of this, but when we turn to God and trust Him with all our heart, soul and mind. He is so merciful and giving that it all works out.

When we direct our lives to God, we become aware of the fact that each act in our life—no matter how ordinary or insignificant, if done in Love (because ***God is Love***), increases the life of God within us. That’s when we become more conscious of God’s love and of His continued presence among us. We need to live the life Christ so desired for us. To live as God created us to live, to become one with Him in Christ loving each other.

Always remember God loves you because he created you. The Holy Spirit is most anxious to dwell in your heart, the temple He created for Himself. In 1 Cor. 6:19-20 it says:

“Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body.”

Amen