

LENT: GET BORE WITH WE USED TO LOVE!

Message to the Stigmatine Laity, in Lent, 2001

Once again we are in Lent season and, as we have proposed to live our Christian life following the steps of Saint Gaspar Bertoni, we will enjoy the maximum this time of conversion.

Let us be very attempted, all of us, as the Lent Liturgy invite us to renew and to light up again in our heart the purposes with what, during the Easter Vigil, we will say again the promises of our Baptism. Then, Lent has everything in common with Baptism and Easter. New and old. Death and life. Darkness and light.

The door that opens in front of us takes us to the transfiguration. To take on a new aspect. To convert. To shine again. To shine out. To rescue in us the Divine features. To relight the fire of love.

This is the reason penitence is token along these forty days. Let us remember the penitence only is valid when it takes us to a nice self-renunciation (Mt 16:24). Be attempted: it is needed to be careful with the phrase: "To renounce to yourself". It is not about a self-destruction. It is not from Gospels. Let us see what Saint Gaspar talks about:

"Deny yourself who leave to live according to the old Adam's carnal life to live according to the new spiritual life of grace."

It means: the self-renunciation rescues our Divine image and resemblance. We are born again. Once again be careful: this changing has nothing of magic. It turns necessary to leave a life way. In reason of that nothing happens without my chosen, without my decision. Let us hear Saint Gaspar:

"Through the penitence we get bore with what we used to love, in order to love what we got bore with before."

Really: to renounce is to cure the bad habits in order to cultivate the virtues. To change our thought standard. To fly higher in order to look up beyond our mean interests. To uncross the arms to stretch them to those who cry out for love. To overcome our delusions of grandeur, our fear of failure, our attachments to secondary and passing things...

Dear laity, again the merciful hand of God stretches to each of us, setting the way of the Desert, where the contemplative silence will permit the appearance of a new creature. Illuminated by the faith we received on Baptism, let us pledge to live as sons of the Light and to won the darkness of the evil those are on us and on the world.

Have all of you a Holy Lent.

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Search: "Saint Gaspar's Grammar, nº 51: Indispensable Conditions to Follow Christ".
(*A Gramática de São Gaspar, nº 51: Condições Indispensáveis para Seguir a Cristo* - Portuguese Language).

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