

Jesus † Mary † Joseph  
Chapter 53 - Seeking Advice

**Christ:**

My child, those who are still beginners and lack experience in the daily way to holiness, may easily be deceived and lost unless they follow the advice of wiser men.

2. When temptation upsets your interior peace, seek advice from a spiritual director. Prefer to follow the counsels of a more experienced man rather than follow your own ideas. Satan can quote Scripture to his own purpose. He can also imitate My inspirations in many things. It is not always easy to discover his deceit. Good intentions alone are not enough to make you holy. You must be right in the course you are following.

3. I left you My Church as a sure guide to My Truth. I have also left you My own example, and the example and words of My saints. Do not be too proud to follow these helps. Do not despise the proverbs of the past. They are filled with the wisdom of experience.

4. After you receive advice, be wise and humble enough to follow it. Try to discover the source of your temptations, so that you may root it out of your life. A man who offers only external resistance to temptations, without removing their causes, will make little progress in virtue. These temptations will return to him in a short while, and his condition will be the same, if not worse.

**Think:**

Pride or fear prevents many from seeking needed advice. As a result they are hurt more seriously as they go along in life. It takes humility to admit my faults and my limitations. It takes courage to do something about them. Will I be a fool and avoid the aid of those who can help me? Secondly, may I never refuse to others the sympathetic understanding and assistance which I would want if I were in their trouble.

**Pray:**

Dear Father of Wisdom, Lord of Mercy, grant that I may never be so proud and so foolish as to refuse advice. I want to live an intelligent life. If the advice of others increases my wisdom in action, give me the humility and courage to follow it. In this way, I hope to avoid or defeat the temptations of my daily life. Amen.

December 24th

Saints Tarsilla and Emiliana, Virgins († Sixth Century)

Tarsilla and Emiliana were two paternal aunts of Saint Gregory the Great, and it is this holy Pope who narrates their touching story. They renounced the world together, together consecrated their virginity to God and remained in their house as if in a convent, far removed from the conversation of the world. Encouraging one another to virtue by discourse and example, the two sisters soon made considerable progress in spiritual life.

They had a sister named Gordiana, who had taken the same engagements, but little by little fell back into affection for the world, to the great grief of Tarsilla and Emiliana. With gentleness they reproached her, but the inconstant spirit of Gordiana soon forgot their

charitable lessons. One day Tarsilla had a vision, in which Pope Saint Felix, her uncle, appeared to her and showed her a palace of marvelous beauty, saying to her: "Come; I will receive you into this habitation of light." She fell ill with a fever the next day, which rapidly grew worse. While in her agony, with her eyes lifted to heaven, she cried out to those surrounding her, "Make way! Jesus is coming!" Soon after speaking these words, as she gazed at the vision, her soul was delivered from the bonds of the flesh. It was December 24th. The fragrance with which the room was filled confirmed the vision the virgin had had before dying.

A few days afterwards she appeared to her sister Emiliana, saying: "My sister, come! I did not celebrate with you the birth of the Lord, but together we will celebrate the feast of the Epiphany." "If you call only me," Emiliana replied, "what will become of our sister Gordiana?" "Come," Tarsilla answered sadly; "Gordiana has decided to remain with the worldlings." And after that vision, Emiliana fell ill and joined her sister for the feast day.

Source: Vie des Saints pour tous les jours de l'année, by Abbé L. Jaud (Mame: Tours, 1950).

~\*~Today is also the Feast of Saint Delphinus, and of Saint Charleb Makhlof ~\*~

#### Preparing the Stable - December 24th – The Blessed Virgin

Go meet your Blessed Mother. Lead Her to the manger of your heart and beg Her to lay the Divine Infant in it. Shorten your chats and telephone conversations and spend more time today thinking of Jesus and Mary and Joseph.

Ejaculation: Come, dear Jesus, come; my heart longs for Thee!

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