

Jesus † Mary † Joseph
Chapter 40 - Heavenly Desires

Christ:

My child, be not too impressed by appearances. Foolish people think that a man cannot help being happy if he is rich, or powerful, or if he has fame and influence. Be wise with My wisdom. Fix your heart on heavenly riches. Then you will see that passing glories and unsteady contentment are not as desirable as they seem. In fact, they are often a burden of work, worry, and fear.

2. Man's happiness does not consist in having a great deal. A moderate amount of this world's good things is enough for you if you are daily working for Heaven. The more you see life from My viewpoint, the more you will realize that this earthly life is a cross. It has its trials, burdens, disappointments and sorrows, all of which must be borne patiently. It is not easy to be a spiritual man, because the good things of this world continually appeal to your feelings. Learn to govern your feelings with the reins of reason and grace. Control them with your intelligence and My commandments.

3. As your desire for spiritual perfection grows, you will find yourself thinking more definitely of Heaven. Your desire for Heaven will become stronger and stronger. You may even have to control a dislike for the needs and obligation of daily life.

Think:

The more one thinks of his eternal destiny, the more he will realize that his earthly life is a journey toward something far grander than this world. He sees each day as a step toward Heaven, and he looks at himself to see whether he is on the right path. Slowly he comes to value the events of his daily life according to God's Will and Heaven's eternal happiness.

Pray:

Lord, nothing on earth can give me the joy and happiness of Heaven. In fact, there is no lasting joy apart from Thee. May I never be without Thy holy grace. I desire to see the real value of the earthly things which I love. May I never love any person or thing more than Thee, that is, may I never sin because of them. Amen.

December 9th - Saint Leocadia, Virgin and Martyr (†303)

Saint Leocadia was the fervent daughter of an illustrious Christian family of Toledo, apprehended and martyred in 303 by an order of Dacian, the cruel governor under Diocletian.

When Dacian arrived in Toledo, Leocadia was soon denounced. Summoned before his tribunal, she replied to his contemptuous words concerning the true religion that

she considered herself infinitely happy to serve God and His Son Jesus Christ, and that nothing whatsoever would be able to make her renounce her religion. She was flogged until covered with blood, then imprisoned with threats. She went to the prison with joy, consoling the Christians along the route who deplored her condition, telling them to rejoice in the grace she received to suffer for her Lord and Spouse. It was in this prison that she heard of the incredibly cruel martyrdom inflicted on her compatriot, Saint Eulalia, and she was so grieved by these cruelties, and by the condition of the true servants of God in those days, that she prayed to be retired from this world. Her prayer was heard, and she expired peacefully there on December 9, 303, kissing a cross which the touch of her hand imprinted on the hard rock of the prison wall.

A church was built over her tomb, in which several archbishops of Toledo chose to be buried. Two other famous churches in Toledo bear her name, one built over the site of the prison, and the other at that of the paternal home. Saint Leocadia is honored as the principal patroness of the city. Her relics were kept in that church with great respect, until during the incursions of the Moors, they were conveyed to Oviedo, and again elsewhere, then they were eventually carried back to Toledo with great pomp, and placed in the great church there on the 26th of April, 1589.

Sources: Les Petits Bollandistes: Vies des Saints, by Msgr. Paul Guérin (Bloud et Barral: Paris, 1882), Vol. 14; Little Pictorial Lives of the Saints, a compilation based on Butler's Lives of the Saints and other sources, by John Gilmary Shea (Benziger Brothers: New York, 1894).

~*~*~ Today is also the Feast of Saint Peter Fourier ~*~*~

Preparing the Stable - December 9th – Swaddling Clothes

Prepare swaddling clothes for the Divine Infant by folding your hands when you pray, and by praying slowly and thoughtfully.

Ejaculation: Jesus, let me love Thee more and more.

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