

The Purgative Way (part II)

1. Maintaining a Relatively Stable Life in the Church

- (a) Fidelity to Sunday Mass
- (b) Fidelity to daily prayer
- (c) Frequent Confession
- (d) Practicing virtue and fighting vice
- (e) Studying the Faith

2. Temptations

- (a) Caused by the world, the flesh, and the devil.
- (b) Ordinary activity of the Evil One.
- (c) Fighting and overcoming temptations.
- (d) The means to growing in holiness.

3. The Dark Night of the Senses

- (a) What is the Dark Night?
 - (i) Two Dark Nights
 - a) Dark Night of the Senses: entry into the Illuminative Way (Spiritual Adolescence)
 - b) Dark Night of the Spirit: entry into the Unitive Way (Spiritual Adulthood)
 - (ii) What the Dark Nights are not.
 - a) Ordinary Sufferings of Human Life: Mental/Emotional Problems
 - b) Spiritual Sloth (Acedia) proceeding from "sin, weakness, or lukewarmness."
- (b) Who experiences the First Dark Night?
- (c) When does the First Dark Night happen?
- (d) How long does the Dark Night of the Senses last?
- (e) Why is the Dark Night of the Senses necessary?
- (f) What are the three signs of the Dark Night?
- (g) What should I do during the Dark Night?
- (h) How do I enter into the Dark Night?
- (i) Scriptural evidence of the Dark Night.

Questions for sharing:

Are the areas for growth for you in maintaining a stable life in the Church? Are there other areas you think are part of maintaining a stable Church life?

How do you fight temptations?

Have you experienced the Dark Night of the Senses? How do you respond when prayer is dry? If so, did you see the spiritual benefit?

Do you find this overwhelming or helpful? Why?

Are you finding these talks interesting and applicable to your spiritual journey? Do you have any questions that you would like answered?