

Contemplation to Attain the Love of God

DAY 8, MAY 19, 2020

Contemplation to Learn to Love as God loves ("Cont. Ad Amorem"):

We first call your attention to two points, important for this exercise:

- 1) The first is, *love ought to manifest itself in deeds, rather than words.*
- (2) The second is: *love consists in a mutual sharing of goods.* That is to say, the lover gives and shares with his beloved what he possesses, of something of which he is able to give; and vice, versa, the beloved also seeks to share with the lover.

The four points of the "Contemplation" as Found in the Book of Exercises:

- 1) First point: to recall to mind the blessings of creation and redemption, and the special favors that I personally received.
- 2) Second point: this is to reflect how God dwells in creatures: in the elements giving them existence, in plants and animals, giving them life and sensation--and in man, giving us understanding. So, he dwells in me, too, and makes a Temple of me, since I am created in the image and likeness of the Divine Majesty.
- 3) Third point: This is to consider how God works and labors for me in all the creatures on the face of the earth, that is, God conducts Himself as one who labors--a continual work of love!
- 4) Fourth point: "I will consider how all good things and gifts descend from above. . .for example, my limited power from the Supreme and infinite Power above; and so of justice, mercy, piety and so forth--all from above." *God is the source* of all that is good in our world, in our universe!

(At every stage, you may wish to use some profound prayer of thanks, and wonderment, perhaps as expressed in the use of the Ignatian *Suscipe!*)



Some Scripture Passages that can be used in conjunction with (and reflection on) the "Ad Amorem" (Contemplation for Learning to Love as God does):

John: 21: 1-19: It shows us a way to view the entire lovely Contemplation in a short space; an overview, acc. to one writer, of the entire four points.

John 14: 1-14: God in Jesus is consoling us, giving us reason to have faith in His love and care; a profoundly trusting passage which can be used anytime!

John 15: 1-10: The classic "vine and branches" image of true Discipleship. Can be seen as Jesus' gift to the disciples who will help build the future church, when united with Him.

Psalm 63: 1-9: "I will bless you as long as I live!"

Psalm 127: The Lord must be the main builder of "your house", that is, your present life and future doings.

Psalm 147: God gives his mighty gifts; heals the brokenhearted and restores the lowly of the land!

Romans 8:2 8-39: What else, except a hymn to God's glory forever?

Ephesians 1: 15-23: There is a power and hope which Christ offers believers.

Dear God: We pray that, in the days ahead, as we are continuing due concern for the health of all your sons and daughters, our church will soon be opened up. We make this our prayer so that, in truth, the graces gained from the sacraments and also the graces and blessings you alone can give may flow freely again; and that all who have suffered through this season of Virus may find themselves once more in a time of healing and great growth! Heavenly Father, your Will be done in all things! Amen!

