



EXAMINATION OF CONSCIENCE FOR PRIESTS

(cf. *The Priest's Companion*, Very Rev. B.F. Marcetteau, S.S., 1932, p. 392f.)

HAS my peace of mind been disturbed, since my last Retreat, about any one of my confessions, as to integrity, sincerity, or contrition?—Have I been negligent in regard to confession, postponing it without sufficient reasons?

I. DUTIES TO GOD

HAVE I entertained or too weakly resisted doubts in matters of faith? —Have I read pernicious or dangerous books, without necessity and without permission?

Have I sinned against Hope by lack of confidence in God's mercy or providence, by discouragement or presumption?

Have I sinned against Charity towards God by preferring, in practice, any creature to God, or any temporal interests to God's interests, or again by neglecting to make acts of love of God, at least from time to time?

Have I spoken, without sufficient reverence, of God, or of the Saints, or of holy things, or of persons consecrated to the Lord?

Have I read the Divine Office entirely, rubrically, reverently, without haste, "*pie, attente, ac devote*"? Do I postpone it to late hours when it becomes a burden and cannot easily be made a fruitful prayer?

Have I neglected to say Mass, on weekdays, for purely selfish motives? Did I ever offer the Holy Sacrifice in a doubtful state of conscience? Do I perform this sacred function with devotion and reverence, carefully observing the rubrics of the Missal and the directions of the *Ordo*, reading the liturgical text distinctly and without precipitation? Do I neglect my Thanksgiving after Mass?

Do I make a visit to the Blessed Sacrament, every day?

Do I give enough attention to the care of my church, of the altar and tabernacle, of the sacred vessels and linen, of the vestments, and all the objects used in divine worship?

II. DUTIES TO MY NEIGHBOR

HAVE I been wanting in obedience and respect to my ecclesiastical superiors? Have I willingly given them the cooperation they have a right to expect from me?

Did I ever injure their reputation or their work by criticism or inconsiderate remarks?

Have I sinned against my neighbor by anger, unreasonable quarrels or disputes, hatred, envy, jealousy, contempt, resentment and desire of revenge, lack of kindness and consideration, unwillingness to forgive injuries or to make up for those I have inflicted?

Have I injured any one's reputation by slander, detraction, rash judgment, suspicion ... ?

Have I scandalized my neighbor by words or deeds, and neglected to warn or correct those under my care?

Have I paid my debts fully and without unnecessary delay? Have I injured in any way, the temporal interests of others, or been careless in the management of Church property?

Have I neglected to assist the poor according to my means? Have I been kind and affable to all those who have sought help or advice from me?

Have I been negligent in visiting the sick and giving them the spiritual assistance and consolation which their condition requires; in preaching regularly and with sufficient preparation; in instructing children and watching over them; in making sure that all the children in my parish are baptized without delay, and in preparing adults for a worthy reception of this Sacrament; in securing the grace and blessing of the Sacrament of Confirmation for all my parishioners?

Have I showed myself sufficiently obliging in making preliminary arrangements for marriages? Have I been zealous enough in preparing the parties to receive this Sacrament validly and worthily? Have I observed the canonical laws concerning impediments, dispensations, and jurisdiction? Have I tried to revalidate invalid marriages, and to regularize illicit unions?

Have I heard confessions punctually at the appointed hours, and showed myself willing to hear penitents even at other times, when requested? Have I been kind, patient, and discreet with my penitents? Have I followed the principles of sound theology and of experienced confessors, in giving and, if need be, delaying absolution? Have I provided adequate and sound spiritual direction? Have I always preserved the dignity and reserve required of him who represents Christ in the Tribunal of Penance?

III. DUTIES TO MYSELF

Have I sinned against holy purity by thought, word, or deed? Have I read dangerous books or looked at immodest pictures? Have I been careful enough in avoiding occasions of temptations? Do I ordinarily neglect the practice of mortification and self-denial, without which virtue is impossible?

Have I yielded to temptations of pride or vainglory, especially in the use of my authority and in the discharge of my duties as God's minister? Have I sought or desired worldly honors or distinctions?

Have I always been temperate in the use of food and drink?

Have I immoderately desired or too eagerly sought the possession of earthly goods? Have I spent money too freely for my own pleasure and comfort?

Have I wasted time in idleness, in light reading, in frequent or unduly prolonged games and recreations, in occupations foreign to my work as a priest? Have I been slothful in rising?

Have I sinned against truth?

Do I endeavor to preserve and develop the spirit of true piety by a daily practice of some of the principal devotions authorized and recommended by the Church?

What are the faults against which I must particularly guard after the completion of this Retreat? What means should I take to avoid them?

