



An Aid to Averting Avarice

"Blessed are the poor in spirit, they shall see God."

In order to make our combat with the vice of avarice real to ourselves, consider the following:

- (1) The poor in spirit have the feeling that they always have too much for themselves whereas those who do not have the spirit of poverty feel they never have enough. There is always something else they need.
- (2) The poor in spirit are convinced that nothing is due to them.
- (3) They often choose for themselves that which is common and ordinary, and even that which is less.
- (4) They remind themselves of those in the world who are in need when they use the goods of this world... thus, they have a certain holy and spontaneous uneasiness when making an expenditure for themselves.
- (5) They know how to adapt themselves to life's little demands by making due with what is available.
- (6) They are available for the service of others in a disinterested manner, that is to say, without seeking some material or affective compensation.
- (7) They even sense the needs of their neighbors with a certain awareness which enables them to help them without being asked. Such people easily relate to the poor when they meet them.
- (8) They count spontaneously on the help of God, trusting in His Divine Providence, when things seem to be lacking. By faith they live the Gospel saying, "Seek ye first the Kingdom of God and its justice and all these things will be added to you besides."
- (9) They feel a profound joy and contentment at not needing anything... at being free of things of this world.