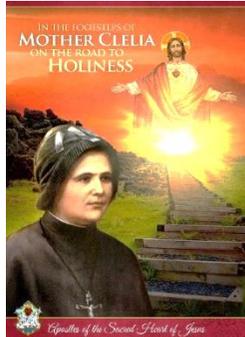




GFASC Holiness Reflection 7



The Humility of Mother Clelia

In January 1924, after a process of reflection and discernment, Mother Clelia pronounced a vow of humility. This was an offering of total surrender to God for the purpose of glorifying his mercy. In this way, Blessed Clelia was able to reach the peaks of perfection more easily, loving her spouse more intensely, renouncing everything and doing his will in all things. *(Nicola Gori, Woman of Forgiveness)*

VOW OF HUMILITY

My God, to honor Your most eminent mercy, I make a vow of humility: First, I will never complain either interiorly or exteriorly of any treatment I receive, either from God or from reasonable or unreasonable creatures. Nothing is due to nothing and it never complains. Second, I will not speak of myself except for obedience or charity, never for self-satisfaction or some human motive; that is, for obedience when my superiors will or desire it and for charity, when it might help my neighbor. Third, I will not avoid saying things that mortify me when it is not inconvenient for my superiors to listen to me, when my intention is obedience and when I should

not fail to fulfill my duties. Fourth, I will stay at everyone's feet in spirit, convinced of my own less-than-nothingness, and in my actions, by making myself, as far as possible, the servant of everyone whenever this is not hindered by obedience or by the performance of my duties.

Fifth, I will be happy and I will rejoice to be able, when God provides the opportunity, to prove my love for Him by crushing my self-love. O my God, allow me to do this with every-growing generosity. Oh! If we only knew the value of obedience!.. What delight Jesus finds in an obedient soul! *(Diary of Mother Clelia Merloni)*

"I should be humble so that I won't hold myself in esteem. How embarrassed I am that I deceive my conscience in a cowardly way. Despite my great vigilance, many battles, and many prayers, I err continually. I do not know myself and, like the person who thinks she is in good health because she no longer feels her illness, I believe I am advanced on the way of perfection; that is because I am not aware of my defects. Everyone knows my weaknesses; I alone know nothing or very little about them. Either my vision is confused by the false and deceptive splendor of my pride, or shifting my glance far from myself, I lose sight of myself, or the excessive love that I have for myself blocks me from seeing what I really am. *(Diary of Mother Clelia Merloni)*

From the Gospel According to Matthew (11: 25-30)

At that time Jesus said in reply, "I give praise to you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, for although you have hidden these things from the wise and the learned you have revealed them to the childlike. Yes, Father, such has been your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father. No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son wishes to reveal him. "Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest. Take

my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart; and you will find rest for yourselves. For my yoke is easy, and my burden light.”

Pope Francis

Some people believe that “being humble means being polite, courteous, and closing your eyes in prayer.” “No, that is not what it means to be humble.” The only sign of humility is to accept humiliation. “Humility without humiliations is not humility. A humble person is that man, that woman, who is able to endure humiliations as did Jesus, the humiliated one, the great humiliated one. *(cf. Homily, December 5, 2017, Santa Marta)*

Reflection

- Do you know yourself, your gifts, your qualities, your imperfections?
- Is your will truly submitted to God?
- In your work, in all you do and say, do you seek the esteem of others rather than attribute all to God?
- Do you expect others to conform to your way of thinking?

Pledge

To think excessively of self, to speak only about oneself... Humble persons avoid turning all conversations back on themselves, their experiences, their accomplishments: they avoid trying continually to make their virtues recognized.

Practice the virtue of humility!

Praying with Mother Clelia

O Jesus, I want to safely cross the stormy sea of this life and reach the port of salvation by leaning on Your Cross, O my good Jesus.

Yes, O my divine Savior, I will cross it, denying myself by doing violence to my inclinations, mortifying myself in everything, in a word, hanging with You on the Cross.

Let the winds of temptation rage, let all the visible and invisible enemies emerge, but I will never again fear anything, clinging closely to You on the Cross.

I will entrust myself to my very dear Mother Mary most holy. Since she is a very safe ship, which reaches the port of safety, I will throw myself into her motherly arms, begging her to keep me now and always under her powerful and most special protection.

*Jesus, meek and humble of heart,
make my heart like Yours.*

