



Catholic Truth League

17 February 2017

Induite vos arma Dei

Ineffable Creator, who from the treasures of your wisdom, have established three hierarchies of angels, have arrayed them in marvelous order above the fiery Heavens, and have marshaled the regions of the universe with such artful skill, You are proclaimed the True Font of Light and Wisdom, and the primal origin raised high beyond all things.

Pour forth a ray of your brightness into the darkened places of my mind; disperse from my soul the twofold darkness into which I was born: sin and ignorance. You make eloquent the tongues of infants. Refine my speech, and pour forth upon my lips the goodness of your blessings. Grant to me keenness of mind, capacity to remember, skill in learning, subtlety to interpret and eloquence in speech.

May you guide the beginning of my work, direct its progress, and bring it to completion. You who are True God and True Man, who live and reign world without end. Amen.
(St. Thomas Aquinas)

Our Lady of Fatima, Pray for Us!

Announcements

Next Meeting: 7 pm Friday, 2/24, room 3

Topic: The *Dubia*

Four cardinals have posed public questions to Pope Francis, asking for clarification of various points in *Amoris Laetitia*, his latest apostolic exhortation. Join us to learn more about the *dubia*, what it means and how it works.

T-shirts: money due next week

Prices are anywhere from \$10-15, depending on how many we order, so add your name to the list if you would like a shirt. The final tally will be sent via email along with a reminder of how much money to bring.

Raffle ticket sales: 2/26 and 3/5

CTL will be selling raffle tickets on Sunday, Feb. 26 and March 5 before and after the 7 pm Mass. One or two members are needed for each Mass.

Ask-a-Catholic: 11:30-3:30 Monday, 3/6

Mark your calendars and join us outside the Class of 1950 lecture hall to answer questions and explain our faith. Sign up sheet available online.

General Information

President: David Schena

Vice President: Mick Krane

Secretary/Webmaster: Christine Mintert

Treasurer: John Redding

Contact CTL: catholictruthleague@gmail.com

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This Week in CTL

Topic: Virtue and Truth

Subtopics

1. Definition of virtue
2. Relationship between grace and virtue
3. The seven virtues: theological and cardinal
4. How virtue can be obtained/practiced
5. Misconceptions

Defining virtue

Thomas Aquinas defines moral virtues as settled dispositions (good habits) of various appetitive powers (passions) which incline and allow their possessors to make good moral choices. What does this mean?

Relationship between grace and virtue

Grace builds upon nature. "Grace is favor, the free and undeserved help that God gives us to respond to his call to become children of God, adoptive sons, partakers of the divine nature and of eternal life" (CCC 1996).

Grace is not required for the perfection of the civic or cardinal virtues (prudence, justice, temperance and courage). These virtues are natural. However, since grace builds upon nature, so the Christian who cooperates with grace can more easily attain these virtues.

Grace is, on the other hand, necessary for the formation of the theological virtues (faith, hope and charity). These virtues are given by God's grace and exercised as the recipient wills them.

This Week in CTL (continued)

The seven virtues

Cardinal virtues:

1. Prudence
2. Justice
3. Temperance
4. Courage/Fortitude

These virtues are called “cardinal” because all other virtues are grouped around them (CCC 1805). “If anyone loves righteousness, [Wisdom’s] labors are virtues; for she teaches temperance and prudence, justice, and courage” (Wisdom 8:7).

Theological virtues:

1. Faith: “the virtue by which we believe in God and believe all that he has said and revealed to us, and that the Holy Church proposes for our belief, because he is truth itself” (CCC 1814).
2. Hope: “the virtue by which we desire the kingdom of heaven and eternal life as our happiness, placing our trust in Christ’s promises and relying not on our own strength, but on the help of the grace of the Holy Spirit” (CCC 1817).
3. Love or Charity: “the virtue by which we love God above all things for his own sake, and our neighbor as ourselves for the love of God” (CCC 1822).

Obtaining and practicing virtue

Efforts: virtues are habitual. Aside from moments of inspiration, any virtue (both cardinal and theological) requires consistency to make it grow.

Acceptance: one must accept these virtues in order to practice and perfect them.

Further questions

Does being virtuous make one suffer or be unhappy?

Can one be fully virtuous without being Christian or religious?

Resources and Further Reading

Catechism of the Catholic Church, no. 1803-1845 - on the virtues

C.S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity*, Book III: Christian Behavior - includes chapters on morality, the cardinal virtues and each of the theological virtues

