



Boston Catholic Journal



NIHIL NISI IESUM

Dedicated to Mary, Mother of God

Salus Animarum Suprema Lex Esto (Canon Law 175)

The Salvation of Souls is the Supreme Law in the Church

Vocations and the Trampled Vineyard



“And now I have set foot in thy gates, O Jerusalem ...” (Psalm 121.2)

The vineyard has indeed been trampled and the hedges breeched. It is undeniable except to the most doctrinaire of those who pulled down her walls and whose disaffection from the Church remains as virulent as the Psychedelic miasma of the 60's that still hovers as a pall of smoke over the ruins. The swath of the destruction of Religious Life ... consecrated life lived in community as it had been for well over 1000 years ... in the name of "Renewal" ... has been so overwhelming as to render the Church effectively unrecognizable from a mere generation ago. Vestiges remain, but they are vestiges only, redolent of a continuity no longer grasped, and in large part, no longer construed as real.

All that had been holy within had fled when the walls were pulled own in the "Renewal that became a requiem" — and the world rushed in, pillaging what was sacred, and leaving in its wake profane litter and utter desolation — a mausoleum of dreams that once flourished in a monastery.

We still await the "renewal" 50 years later — even as we watch our Churches close and our monasteries crumble. We had traded vestments for vests and habits for habiliments. We went into the world and we became the world's own. We became of the world, converted to the world, sanctified every obscenity and called it holy, placed the self, and no sacrifice, on an altar of our making ... and declared the "Renewal" a success ...

But winds are stirring in the East. The generation that wandered for 40 years in the desert can now, at long last, see beyond the Jordan ... but they themselves who had been feckless with God will never cross it. Another generation will gather up our bones and cross that bourne. It is our children who will proclaim that, "When the Lord brought back the captives of Zion, we were like men dreaming. Then was

our mouth filled with laughter; and our tongue with rejoicing!” (Psalm 125.1). Our captivity to the world may well be at hand, our exile from the land of our fathers at a close. It is not us, not us, but our children who will utter as at the end of an arduous journey, “And now I have set foot within thy gates, O Jerusalem!”

Do not, then, be discouraged by the paucity of present vocations. Did not Christ himself say, “Many are called, but few are chosen”?

Our Holy Mother St. Colette said, “The end is approaching, many are called but few are chosen. Many solemnly pronounce their vows, but alas, how few there are who are faithful to them, and in these vows faithful to God who knows all things!”

A life lived with God, in God, for God, calls for nothing less than conspicuous heroism, unflinching courage, unfailing love — in short, a total response to God's invitation.

Not in numbers does strength and power reside, but in love Christened as holy, for God Himself is holy; in the unstinting self-giving of the soul to God, “*Qui potens est*”¹, as Mary joyfully declares in her Magnificat!

Do not be afraid that you are little, have little ... for it has pleased Christ to do great things through that which the world esteems small and insignificant.

Ours is to trust, to hope, and to pray, in obedience to Christ Jesus², for holy and zealous vocations to the Priesthood and Religious life — for the fields are, perhaps as never before, “white to harvest”!

¹ “Who is mighty” (Saint Luke 1.49)

² Saint John 4.35

A Poor Clare Colettine Nun

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