

February 1

SAINT SEVER, BISHOP

103.1 First Point

It is recounted in the Gospel of Saint Luke, Chapter 7, that Saint John's disciples came to Our Lord to ask if he was the Christ, or if they should expect another.¹⁰⁰⁸ Jesus Christ, who had performed several miracles in their presence to let them know that he was indeed the Messiah, told them in concluding his discourse, that The Good News is preached to the poor.¹⁰⁰⁹ This should greatly encourage all the faithful to work courageously at the great enterprise of their salvation, especially those whose birth has constrained them to live in poverty and in the privation of this world's goods.

Saint Sever took full advantage of this circumstance. To earn a living, he was obliged to hire himself out to an infidel master, but he nourished his soul with the bread of God's word¹⁰¹⁰ and with the holy exercise of interior prayer, which he practiced with great fervor in spite of the numerous obstacles which might have hindered him from doing so in the course of his laborious work. God, who is pleased to hear the meek and humble of heart, granted him the entire conversion of his master to the faith of the Catholic Church.

Is it not very foolish to love this world's grandeur and its wealth, since there is really nothing great or worthy of our esteem other than what is great and estimable in the sight of God? Oh divine Jesus! enlighten our eyes so that we may look upon all things as you yourself consider them, so that all our affections and inclinations may be entirely conformable to yours.

103.2 Second Point

The virtues of Saint Sever together with the great number of miracles that God performed through him made him known to all. The resulting esteem for his person was the reason why he was consecrated Bishop of Avranches, chosen from the group of disciples whom he had instructed and led to perfection in a solitary place. But, after having labored to the full extent of his zeal in this position, he was compelled by his profound humility to resign the episcopal dignity, to renounce all his earthly possessions, and to go back to his beloved solitude, where he died the death of the saints¹⁰¹¹ in the arms of those whom he had edified by the example of his saintly life.

It is in the same way that we should give ourselves to exterior duties, that is, with the sole motive of the pure will of God indicated to us by obedience. As soon as we have done what we are obliged to do, we should go back to our solitude to give ourselves to our spiritual exercises, fearing lest we might wound our consciences by some sin. Let us beg God, through the intercession of this great saint, to give us an ardent affection for the interior life, so that all the moments of our life may be so many steps leading us to union with him.

103.3 Third Point

Saint Sever's death was no less precious before God than his life had been edifying before the eyes of men. Hence, to prevent his sacred body from being profaned by the enemies of the Church, his remains were transported from the spot where they lay to a field where he was buried a second time. But his outstanding holiness was manifested by the miracles which took place in this spot, so that it was thought appropriate to transfer his holy relics to the Cathedral of Notre Dame in Rouen. God, wishing to increase the honor paid to this saint, permitted, as they guided this glorious burden, that at every place where they paused for the night, it remained immovable and could not be budged from that spot until a vow was made to build a church in his honor in that location.

Oh! how good it is to serve God! How abundantly he rewards those who love him and lifts them to the heights of glory! Oh, my sovereign Creator of all that is good, give me your holy grace to apply myself to pay you all the veneration I owe you! Grant me your holy blessing in so generous and beneficial an undertaking through the intercession of Saint Sever, the Patron and Protector of our Parish in this place!

1007* These six meditations (103,184,168,181,83 and 188) appear, with the short biographies of Saint Yon and Saint Cassian, at the end of CL 12 (and the original Edition of the Meditations). It seems quite clear from the vocabulary and style that they were not written by De La Salle (See CL 47, pp. 539-540). The numbers of the Meditations are those of the 1882 Edition.

1008 Lk 7:20
1009 Lk 7:22
1010 Mt 4:4
1011 Ps 116:15