

Passage for *Lectio*

104. We may think that we give glory to God only by our worship and prayer, or simply by following certain ethical norms. It is true that the primacy belongs to our relationship with God, but we cannot forget that the ultimate criterion on which our lives will be judged is what we have done for others. Prayer is most precious, for it nourishes a daily commitment to love. Our worship becomes pleasing to God when we devote ourselves to living generously, and allow God's gift, granted in prayer, to be shown in our concern for our brothers and sisters.

We are all called to holiness. Vatican II states:

It is therefore quite clear that all Christians in any state or walk of life are called to the fullness of Christian life and the perfection of love, and by this holiness a more human manner of life is fostered also in earthly society (*Lumen Gentium* #39).

The forms and tasks of life are many but there is one holiness which is cultivated by all who are led by God's Spirit...' (*Lumen Gentium*) #41

Therefore, all the faithful are invited and obliged to holiness and the perfection of their own state of life (*Lumen Gentium* #42)

GAUDETE ET EXSULTATE **CHAPTER FOUR** **SIGNS OF HOLINESS IN TODAY'S WORLD**

110. Within the framework of holiness offered by the Beatitudes and Matthew 25:31-46, I would like to mention a few signs or spiritual attitudes that, in my opinion, are necessary if we are to understand the way of life to which the Lord calls us. I will not pause to explain the means of sanctification already known to us: the various methods of prayer, the inestimable sacraments of the Eucharist and Reconciliation, the offering of personal sacrifices, different forms of devotion, spiritual direction, and many others as well. Here I will speak only of certain aspects of the call to holiness that I hope will prove especially meaningful.

111. The signs I wish to highlight are not the sum total of a model of holiness, but they are five great expressions of love for God and neighbour that I consider of particular importance in the light of certain dangers and limitations present in today's culture...

When during the past month have I shown/ been involved in:

PERSEVERANCE, PATIENCE AND MEEKNESS

Holiness has a solid grounding in the God who loves us; it is an inner strength to persevere amid life's ups and downs.

JOY AND A SENSE OF HUMOUR

Holiness, though remaining completely realistic, radiates a positive and hopeful spirit.

BOLDNESS AND PASSION

Holiness is enthusiasm, an apostolic fervour, the freedom to speak out

IN COMMUNITY

Growth in holiness is a journey in community, side by side with others.

IN CONSTANT PRAYER

Holiness consists in a habitual openness to the transcendent, expressed in prayer and adoration.