


February 14, 2021

Happy Valentine's Day 

Divine Mercy Chaplet today at 3:00 PM.

1. Today's Readings: [Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time | USCCB](#)

2. ***The RE Corner with Jan Heithaus:*** The sixth daughter virtue of prudence is foresight. Foresight is the ability to look into the future and direct actions toward an end. The Latin word is providentia. The past can be studied, but it is fixed and cannot be undone. Even the present is fixed because as soon as we think of it, it already belongs to the past. Foresight allows us to rightly order present actions to a good end, knowing that we can never fully predict the future. And what is the best end to which all of this is focused?

3. Quote of the Day: "Seek by reading and you will find by meditating. Knock by praying, and it will be opened to you in contemplation." *St. John of the Cross*

Attached is another article about the Virtue of Foresight in a well written piece by Dr. Mitchell Kalpakgian. Good for Sunday reading, meditation, and contemplation!

St. Joseph, Pray for Us!

--

Linda McCormick
St. Joseph Catholic Church & School
1200 Cornelia Road
Anderson, SC 29621

Phone: (864) 225-5341, ext. 102
Fax: (864) 225-6432

Sixth “daughter” Virtue of Prudence

Foresight is the principal part of prudence, for the name itself (prudence) is derived from the Latin *providential*, which means foresight. Foresight involves *rightly* ordering human acts to the right end. This of course presupposes that the person is ordered to the right end, which is the possession of God through knowledge and love. The greater his love for God, that is, the greater his charity, the greater will be his foresight: *Blessed are the pure in heart; for they shall see God* (Mt. 5, 8). For it is through charity that one attains God, and it is through this supernatural friendship that one grows in a connatural knowledge of God. The more a person is familiar with the city towards which he directs his steps, the more able he is to see which roads lead to that end and which roads lead away. The more a person is familiar with God, the more readily able he is to discern behavior inconsistent with that friendship. An impure heart, that is, a love of God mixed with an inordinate love of self, will affect one’s ability to see. An inordinate love of self will cause certain alternatives to have greater appeal, but these alternatives (means) will not necessarily lead to the right end. A prudent man sees that, but the imprudent do not. And if they lack true to being memory, they will continue to fail to see it.

Source: catholiceducation.org

The Virtue of Foresight: A Mark of Wisdom

The ancient philosophers identified man's capacity for thought by the use of different words for perceiving reality: *sensus* (the five senses), *imaginatio* (the ability of the mind to recall pictures from the past or paint pictures of the future), *ratio* (the ability to think in logical steps to reach a conclusion), and *intellectus* (the ability to perceive the truth all at once as self-evident).

While animals have instincts as a form of knowledge, they do not reflect on the past or ponder the future with the capacity to think that distinguishes human virtues such as foresight and prudence, a mark of wisdom.

While ants prepare for the winter, they do not contemplate eternity. While dogs have keen memories, they do not gather wisdom from the accumulated experience of the entire human race as a source of universal truth.

Beyond the Present

Because man is a rational animal with the power of intelligence, human thinking goes beyond the immediate concerns and duties of the present moment.

Man's memory allows him to recall the mistakes of the past and not repeat them and to learn from the previous experience of older generations in his study of history. Man's imagination allows him to project into the future and consider possibilities, consequences, and likely outcomes.

The art of living requires this capacity to think today while mindful of the past and conscious of the future. This wise thinking, however, is not escaping into the past with nostalgia or calculating about the future with cunning. The foresight of a wise man is a far cry from the reckoning of a fox or rat.

Exceeding our Grasp

Foresight does not mean simply being insured for accidents to protect against harm to a person's health or damage to his home. While home and car insurance show prudential judgment, foresight is more than prevention or precaution.

It goes beyond not taking foolish chances but rather embraces noble efforts and daring initiatives to achieve an ideal. It encompasses the common good, the welfare of future generations, the happiness of all family members young and old,

and an awareness of the four last things: death, the final judgment, heaven, and hell.

Foresight strives for excellence and imagines always the difference between the way things are in the present and the way things ought to be in the future.

Famous characters in literature like Don Quixote seek to restore the best of the past—the virtues of knighthood—to inspire future generations with truth, honor, chivalry, and courtesy.

Robert Browning writes that “man’s reach should exceed his grasp,/Or else what’s a heaven for?”

Foresight always aspires to perfection and never rests complacent with mediocrity, the lowest common denominator, or the average.

Just as God in His Divine Providence foresees man’s needs and plans for them, man too needs to be provident—to be far-seeing, to think ahead, to be mindful of consequences, and to realize that the outcome of the future depends on the choices of today. Created in God’s image, man imitates God by providing for others and acting with prudence about the future with the virtue of foresight.

For example, God’s all-wise plan for life—envisioning a child’s needs—prepares for the birth of the newborn by endowing man and woman with parental instincts to care for and protect the infant.

All good parents are provident as they attend not only to the present needs of their children but also think ahead for their future.

Looking Ahead

The word “pro-vide” comes from two Latin words that mean to look before or ahead. To be Godlike, to be wise, to be prudent, and to exercise common sense means to weigh consequences and be aware of both the present and the future. All actions bear fruit for good or for ill.

As the parable of the talents illustrates, God expects the coins to be multiplied and earn interest—evidence of foresight and imagining the future with good judgment.

God judges man by the abundance of his harvest: “By their fruits you shall know them.”

There is no interest earned, no bountiful harvest, no fruitful field without foresight, without sowing the right seeds in the springtime of life for the later years.

Unlike animals that live in the present and do not foresee the future with vision or ideals, man enjoys a greater awareness of time as he recollects the past and anticipates the future.

In fact, the cardinal virtue of prudence takes account of past, present, and future—learning from the mistakes and experience of the past, making a practical judgment based on the reality of the present, and foreseeing the consequences of actions today that affect others for the common good in the days ahead.

To be responsible, moral, and sensible, a person naturally thinks ahead—living today but anticipating tomorrow, saving money now for next year’s purchases, educating children in their youth for their later adult life, keeping the Ten Commandments and living the life of the Beatitudes in the expectation of life everlasting.

Foresight for the Future

Christ taught his followers to be both “gentle as doves and wise as serpents.” The serpent looks to the left and to the right, moves slowly and cautiously, and checks for dangers and enemies.

Thinking must always precede acting; otherwise, a person acts foolishly or imprudently without weighing the effects or reactions beforehand. Without foresight a person wastes money, time, or effort and accomplishes nothing.

Without foresight—an intelligent plan of action to achieve a moral goal—no one progresses toward a destination. To live only for the present and think “eat, drink, and be merry, for tomorrow we die” does not amount to wisdom because the future always comes.

Man enters the future either prepared or unprepared—like the ants in Aesop’s fable that prepared for winter or the cicada that only sang in the summer and froze in the cold.

Foresight for students means not only preparing for a career through a good education but also gathering wisdom to live well and to enjoy an abundant life. Nothing learned—no matter the subject matter, book, or class—is ever wasted. Whatever a person learns in science, social studies, religion, or English, he will use in one capacity or another. Not to learn is to show no foresight. If not in his own profession, then in his own personal life a person will be glad he knows, glad he can teach others, glad he possesses an informed mind capable of making intelligent decisions.

A person in high school or college is not just qualifying for a profession but providing for a life of the mind, one of the greatest sources of human happiness because man is designed to love truth, to desire knowledge for its own sake, and ultimately to know God.

It is not only human wisdom to think ahead for the sake of one’s own happiness but also charity to be far-sighted on behalf of the well-being of others. Just as a Christian is obligated to love others as Christ loves him and forgive others as God forgives him, he also needs to think of others and provide for their future as God provides for the birds of the air and the lilies of the field.

Source: Dr. Mitchell Kalpakgian, November 12, 2015: Published in Seton Magazine