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What is the great secret of sanctity?

The Solemnity of All Saints celebrated today in the Universal Church is an occasion to reaffirm the desire for sanctity that we harbour deep in our souls. Following are some excerpts from the writings of St. Josemaria to help us reflect on this Solemnity.

2009-10-30

The great secret of sanctity comes down to becoming more and more

like Him, the only and most lovable Model.

The Forge, 752

You and I belong to Christ's family, for he himself has chosen us before the foundation of the world, to be saints, to be blameless in his sight, for love of him, having predestined us to be his adopted children through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his Will (Eph 1:4-5). We have been chosen gratuitously by Our Lord. His choice of us sets us a clear goal. Our goal is personal sanctity, as St. Paul insistently reminds us, *haec est voluntas Dei: sanctificatio vestra* (1 Thess 4:3), this is the Will of God: your sanctification. Let us not forget, then, that we are in our Master's sheepfold in order to achieve that goal.

Friends of God, 2

A saint, without prayer? I don't believe in such sanctity.

The Way, 107

'Great' holiness consists in carrying out the 'little duties' of each moment.

The Way, 817

Sanctity is made up of heroic acts. Therefore, in our work we are asked for the heroism of finishing properly the tasks committed to us, day after day, even though they are the same tasks. If we don't, then we do not want to be saints.

Furrow, 529

Whoever really wants to achieve sanctity, takes no breaks or holidays.

Furrow, 129

Sanctity consists in struggling, in knowing that we have defects and in heroically trying to overcome them.

Sanctity, I insist, consists in overcoming those defects - although we will still have defects when we die; for if not, as I have told you, we would become proud.

The Forge, 312

All for Love! This is the way of holiness, the way of happiness.

Face up to your intellectual tasks, the highest things of the spirit and also those things that are most down to earth, the things we all of necessity have to do, with this in mind; and you will live joyfully and with peace.

The Forge, 725

Certainly our goal is both lofty and difficult to attain. But please do not forget that people are not born holy. Holiness is forged through a constant interplay of God's grace and the correspondence of man. As one of the early Christian writers says,

referring to union with God,
“Everything that grows begins small.
It is by constant and progressive
feeding that it gradually grows big”.
So I say to you, if you want to become
a thorough-going Christian – and I
know you are willing, even though
you often find it difficult to conquer
yourself or to keep climbing upwards
with this poor body of ours – then
you will have to be very attentive to
the minutest of details, for the
holiness that Our Lord demands of
you is to be achieved by carrying out
with love of God your work and your
daily duties, and these will almost
always consist of small realities.

Friends of God, 7

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