

“We will wholeheartedly love poverty”

If we are close to Christ and are following in his footsteps, we will wholeheartedly love poverty, privation and detachment from earthly things. (The Forge, 997)

4 October

How do you think Our Lord dressed? Haven't you pictured to yourself the dignity with which he wore his seamless cloak which had probably

been woven for him by Our Lady? Don't you remember how, in Simon's house, he was grieved because he had not been offered water to wash his hands before taking his place at the table? [1]

No doubt he drew attention to this example of bad manners to underline his teaching that love is shown in little details. But he also wants to make it clear that he stands by the social customs of his time, and therefore you and I must make an effort to be detached from the goods and comforts of the world, but without doing anything that looks odd or peculiar.

As far as I am concerned, one of the signs that we're aware of being lords of the earth and God's faithful administrators is the care we take of the things we use: keeping them in good condition, making them last and getting the best out of them so

that they serve their purpose for as long a time as possible and don't go to waste. (Friends of God, 122)

[1] cf Luke 7:36-50

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