

DECEMBER (A thought for every day)

1. “But I fear, I fear greatly, that you, too, may be affected by that very modern spirit of excessive and empty busyness, of great distraction that is trying to penetrate even the sanctuary, even missionary activities. My dear ones, I tell everyone, the danger is grave: it is in the air, it is in the times, it is in life. Let us defend ourselves against it and instead strive to preserve the spirit [...] of Our Lord.”

Chiamati alla santità, Naples 1977, p. 265

2. “Woe betide us if the apostolate becomes an end in itself and does not examine day by day whether what it does is all it can do, and the best it can do for the cause of God!”

Osservazioni sul metodo dell’evangelizzazione, Bologna 1979, p. 37

3. “We are worth as much as we pray.”

«Il Vincolo», IV (January 1932), n. 92, p. 31

4. “An hour of meditation solves more difficulties than many discussions.”

Virtù apostoliche, Milan 1944, p. 51

5. “Our missionaries are sometimes a little *too* missionary: too much outside, too much for others. We must avoid excesses and learn to better balance active life with contemplative life, or to put it more simply, the external life of visiting Christian communities with the life of residence, preaching with prayer, work with study.”

Lettera circolare no. 13 of 09.1930, in: *Virtù apostoliche*.

Letters to the missionaries, Bologna 1997, p. 201

6. “The Holy Gospel should be our daily reading, our habitual book of meditation, a book that never runs out because we never finish studying it, understanding it and implementing it in our lives.”

Lettera circolare no. 6, dated 15.09.1926, in: *Virtù apostoliche*.

Lettere ai missionari, Bologna 1997, p. 91

7. “Let us remain united with God through a life of meditation, and we will become wonderful instruments of his mercy.”

Virtù apostoliche, Milan 1944, p. 49

8. “I am convinced that, if we are missionaries by vocation and ordination, we will only be holy missionaries through the practice of prayer.”

Virtù apostoliche, Milan 1944, p. 189

9. “The ordained and prudent missionary reserves the first hours of the day for himself, for his own soul.”

Virtù apostoliche, Milan 1944, p. 208

10. “A fervent prayer, illuminating the spirit with the eternal light of God, comforting the heart with the life-giving warmth of the Heart of Jesus, clears away our self-love, instills humility and generosity in us, and many difficulties that previously seemed serious and insurmountable appear to us as things that are entirely negligible.”

Virtù apostoliche, Milan 1944, p. 51

11. “Mental prayer, this is one of the foundations on which the zeal of the true missionary rests.”

Virtù apostoliche, Milan 1944, p. 193

12. "If you neglect your daily good hour of meditation, if you do not bother the Lord with incessant prayer, your life, keep this in mind, will be the most miserable of failures."

Chiamati alla santità, Naples 1977, p. 230

13. "Our Lord Jesus Christ is the cornerstone upon which we place ourselves and our work. This stone has its own shape to which we must adapt ourselves and our structures. The more we adapt and adhere to this foundation, the more solid and perfect our building will be."

Esortazioni e conferenze ai missionari del PIME 1924-1952, in: *Scritti*, vol. 69, p. 101

14. "Silence is indispensable for increasingly igniting zeal to evangelize and win souls for Christ."

Esci dalla tua terra, Naples 1977, p. 20

15. "Those who do not follow a schedule and take things easy, today get up late and neglect meditation, tomorrow get lost in chatter, reading newspapers, visiting, and leave the breviary for the last hours of the evening. Thus, they do not find the time to prepare their instructions well, they neglect the Visit to the Blessed Sacrament... they just muddle through somehow."

Virtù apostoliche, Milan 1944, p. 103

16. "The missionary is still a human being, does not lack trials and temptations. He is sustained by faith, prayer, the Holy Mass, and, when necessary, also by the kindness of his confreres."

Virtù apostoliche, Milan 1944, p. 78

17. "Always have it in your hand, always in your heart, meditating on it every day and night, the Holy Gospel of Jesus, if you want to proclaim it with abundant fruit to souls."

Donne senza paura, Naples 1976, p. 24

18. "Without faith, the missionary cannot be explained; he does not exist. And if he exists, he is not a true missionary of Jesus Christ."

Lettera circolare no. 6 of 15.09.1926, in: *Virtù apostoliche*.

Lettere ai missionari, Bologna 1997, p. 89

19. "The missionary is par excellence the man of faith. The missionary who is not this is at best an amateur of the apostolate."

Lettera circolare no. 6 of 15.09.1926, in: *Virtù apostoliche*.

Lettere ai missionari, Bologna 1997, p. 89

20. "The spirit of faith in your holy vocation, dearest ones, means a living, profound and constant conviction that the Lord has entrusted you with a task on whose fulfillment depends your sanctification and the sanctification of many souls."

Esortazioni agli aspiranti missionari 1924-1950, in: *Scritti*, vol. 68, p. 48

21. "With faith you will dare everything, you will endure everything, without it your departure (for the missions) would be madness, your attempt to improve the face of the world a foregone failure."

Esci dalla tua terra, Naples 1977, p. 95

22. "A missionary without faith will soon become a burden to the Mission, a failure for himself, when, God forbid, he does not also become a cause of ruin for souls."

Lettera circolare no. 6 of 15.09.1926, in: *Virtù apostoliche*.

Lettere ai missionari, Bologna 1997, p. 89

23. "There is Someone in the tabernacle. Someone who is good, meek, holy, and powerful."
Esortazioni e conferenze ai missionari del PIME 1924-1952, in: *Scritti*, vol. 69, p. 89
24. "The Father's wonderful love: God so loved the world that he gave his only Son (Jn 3:16)."
Chiamati alla santità, Naples 1977, p. 22
25. "God, loving man, humbles himself, becomes man, and so we have a God-man on earth."
Chiamati alla santità, Naples 1977, p. 35
26. "God overcomes all distances and difficulties, he wants to make a covenant with men, in affinity and kinship with men, he wants there to be a Man-God among men. But is this possible? Yes, says the evangelist John: *Et Verbum caro factum est.*"
Chiamati alla santità, Naples 1977, p. 36
27. "The only Son of the Father becomes man to offer to the Father, to give back to him all those children whom sin had taken away and whom he redeems at the price of his blood, thus becoming the Firstborn of many brothers to whom, at his death, he restored divine life."
Chiamati alla santità, Naples 1977, p. 22
28. "This decree of love from the heavenly Father, fulfilled in Adam, was destroyed by sin. Adam sins and drags all his descendants into his misfortune. But this divine Father does not want to let himself be overcome by sin; he loves us too much, and to save us, to restore to us the grace of lost sonship, by a decree of infinite love, by an invention of justice and mercy, he orders his only Son, who lives eternally in his bosom, to become man, while remaining God, to save fallen humanity."
Chiamati alla santità, Naples 1977, p.22
29. "Jesus' entire life was a continuous lesson in poverty, detachment, and contempt for all things down here; he taught this from the chair of the cradle, from Nazareth, from the highest place of the cross."
30. "Let us not give *too much* value to money as a means of apostolate. I would like the true strength of the word "**too much**" to be clearly understood. The Gospel will not go very far leaning on the crutches of money, and even if it seems to progress, it will not be lasting and true progress."
"Il Vincolo", I [September 1929], n. 2, p. 12
31. "A missionary who holds back and has not given himself, who does not want to give himself completely and only to Jesus, is a missionary in name only, and the Church and the Institute have no use for such a missionary."
Virtù apostoliche, Milan 1944, p. 109