

NOVEMBER (A thought for each day)

1. “[God did not want to form] a special caste, distinct from the mass of men, to form a peculiar people. All men and all Christians are called to holiness.”

Chiamati alla santità, Naples 1977, p. 85

2. “In the light of death we see life, God, souls, the world and all its goods. [...] In the light of death we order our conscience and a good program of holy life.”

Chiamati alla santità, Naples 1977, p. 182

3. “Let us ensure that missionaries, the most direct instruments in the conversion of souls, are saints, and the infidels will not be slow to convert.”

Virtù Apostoliche, Milan 1944, p. 41

4. Anniversary of the Beatification of Fr. Paolo Manna

“In Father Paolo Manna we perceive a special reflection of the glory of God. He spent his entire life promoting the missions. In every page of his writings there stands out the person of Jesus, centre of his life and reason for the missions.”

John Paul II, From the Homily at the Beatification, November 4, 2001

5. “If one can be a good doctor, lawyer, or professor without being a saint, the same cannot be said for a priest: it would be a contradiction in terms.”

Chiamati alla santità, Naples 1977, p. 80

6. “The blood shed by Jesus Christ was the price of this great gift, by which we can still call God our Father, by which we can still esteem ourselves and be children of God and hope to be with Him in heaven for all eternity.”

Chiamati alla santità, Naples 1977, p. 23

7. “The office of the priest: TO GIVE JESUS CHRIST, to give him to all, to the bad, to the good, to the perfect, to the great and the small, the learned and the ignorant.”

Chiamati alla santità, Naples 1977, p. 76

8. “The priest is a *soldier* who must never cease fighting to conquer souls.”

Chiamati alla santità, Naples 1977, p. 145

9. “[The priest] is a *fisher* of men who must venture out into the high seas: [...] to catch in his net those who are drowning in the sea of the world.”

Chiamati alla santità, Naples 1977, pp. 145-146

10. “[The priest] is a *shepherd* who must run across mountains and valleys to look for the lost sheep.”

Chiamati alla santità, Naples 1977, p. 146

11. “The priest cannot save himself alone; his health is tied to that of many others.”

Chiamati alla santità, Naples 1977, p. 146

12. “Ours is not a *voluntary ministry*, of our own choosing. If we had become priests only for our own genius and pleasure, we would have much to fear... God has elected and chosen us.”

Chiamati alla santità, Naples 1977, p. 68

13. "What if you yourselves were to establish the reign of sin in your hearts? If Judith, instead of cutting off Holofernes' head, had allowed herself to be taken by an unworthy affection for him, what shame for her, what ruin for the people, *yet* it is nothing compared to the shame with which the priest covers himself by sinning and *the ruin he causes to souls* ."

Chiamati alla santità, Naples 1977, p. 97

14. "Divine vocation, most divine [priestly] mission, yours, true masterpiece of the infinite power and mercy of our God!"

Chiamati alla santità, Naples 1977, p. 235

15. "If the priest wears himself out, his life is shortened by his zeal, he does not perform a work of supererogation. It is a state obligation."

Chiamati alla santità, Naples 1977, p. 146

16. "The priest is guilty of every crime that he has not tried to prevent, whether he could or should have done so."

Chiamati alla santità, Naples 1977, p. 138

17. "By taking away the Mass, you are taking away the priest's life, you are making him superfluous."

Chiamati alla santità, Naples 1977, p. 149

18. "The holy priest *lives* by the Eucharist – Holy Mass: preparation and thanksgiving".

Chiamati alla santità, Naples 1977, p. 147

19. "We are more fortunate than the angels in being able to give God a greater honor by celebrating and offering the Holy Mass."

Chiamati alla santità, Naples 1977, p. 170

20. "We wondered what we could do to enable the faithful to participate more effectively in the service of Our Lord in the apostolate. It didn't take long to come to the conclusion that the Christian people would certainly achieve more if they were guided and enlightened by priests."

"Le Missioni Cattoliche", February 23, 1917

21. "Today among non-Christians, in every land, even the most remote, and in every climate, even the most hostile, there are Sisters, these valid and faithful helpers of the apostolic work of the missionaries."

Donne senza paura, Naples 1976, p. 7

22. "It is inconceivable how a religious man or a nun can love Jesus Christ and lack missionary zeal!"

La conversione del mondo infedele, Milan 1920, p. 230

23. "If we regulate water, we have irrigation; if we regulate fire, we have steam. By disciplining the wills of the saints, the Church has had the great illuminating and incendiary forces of the apostolate."

Virtù Apostoliche, Milan 1944, p. 177

24. "Priestly vocation and holiness must be closely united: there can be holiness without priesthood, but not vice versa."

Chiamati alla santità, Naples 1977, p. 80

25. "An unholy priest is a contradiction that unfortunately occurs often."

Chiamati alla santità, Naples 1977, p. 80

26. "He wants to make us children of his Father: therefore he makes himself our brother, therefore he wants to be *a model* for us in this sonship, therefore he made himself a man similar to us, because if he had always been in heaven we would not have been able to know how to be good children of the Father".

Chiamati alla santità, Naples 1977, pp. 23-24

27. "Philosophers say that the soul is more in the object it loves than in the body it animates. [...] Love transforms us outside of ourselves and transports us to God, makes us similar to Him, deifies us."

Chiamati alla santità, Naples 1977, p. 33

28. "Happy is the soul that places itself in the school of God's love."

Chiamati alla santità, Naples 1977, p. 33

29. "How many of us strive to know God? [...] And how many (so few!) strive to love him? It's true, we can know him little down here, but if we want, we can love him without limit."

Chiamati alla santità, Naples 1977, p. 33

30. "Furthermore, the degree of *knowledge we will have of God above depends on the degree of love* we achieve here on earth. We will enjoy God not in proportion to our knowledge, but in proportion to our love."

Chiamati alla santità, Naples 1977, pp. 33-34