

FAITH CHAT

with James & John

What's The Essence Of Consecrated Life?

Know This...

All the baptized are called to holiness. We obtain holiness—regardless of our state in life—by loving God above everything else. First and foremost, we must love God; then, those called to the married life must embrace the marital vows of faithfulness, fidelity, and family; and, those called to the consecrated life must embrace the “evangelical counsels” of poverty, chastity, and obedience. These three counsels form the essence of consecrated life.



John: The first priority for every Christian is to follow Jesus. The second is to work to expand the reach of His Church. We accomplish this by living out our state in life.

James: Many of us are called to live the married life; but some are called to live the consecrated life sealed by a public or private vow of poverty, chastity, and obedience.

John: Jesus lived a life of poverty symbolized by His detachment from worldly things and voluntary humility.



James: Jesus lived a chaste life symbolized by His perfectly faithful and infinite love for His Bride, the Church.

John: Jesus lived an obedient life symbolized by the complete subordination of His will to the will of His heavenly Father.

James: Men and women who live the consecrated life, have been moved by the Holy Spirit to consecrated their lives to Christ and to imitate His life of poverty, chastity, and obedience.

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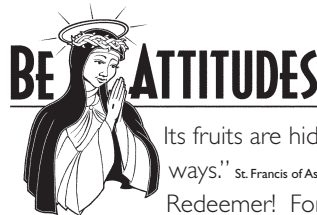
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“Peter said to Jesus, ‘We have given up everything and followed you.’ Jesus said, ‘Amen, I say to you, there is no one who has given up house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or lands for my sake and for the sake of the gospel who will not receive a hundred times more now in this present age: houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands, with persecutions, and eternal life in the age to come. But many that are first will be last, and the last will be first.’” Mk. 10:28-31

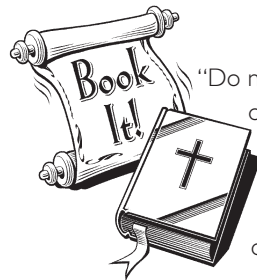


“The life consecrated through the profession of the evangelical counsels is a stable form of living by which the faithful, following Christ more closely under the action of the Holy Spirit, are totally dedicated to God who is loved most of all, so that, having been dedicated by a new and special title to His honor; to the building up of the Church, and to the salvation of the world, they strive for the perfection of charity in the service of the kingdom of God and, having been made an outstanding sign in the Church foretell the heavenly glory. The Christian faithful freely assume this form of living in institutes of consecrated life. Through vows or other sacred bonds according to the proper laws of the institutes, they profess the evangelical counsels of chastity, poverty, and obedience.” Code of Canon Law, 573§1-§2



“Poverty is the way to salvation, the nurse of humility, and the root of perfection.

Its fruits are hidden, but they multiply themselves infinite ways.” St. Francis of Assisi “How much am I obliged to my sweet Redeemer! For since, by means of His servant Francis, I have tasted the bitterness of His holy passion, I have never in my whole life found any pain or sickness that could afflict me. There is nothing insupportable to a heart that loveth God; and to him that loveth not, everything is insupportable.” St. Clare of Assisi



“Do not fear when others become rich, when the wealth of their houses grows great. When they die they will take nothing with them, their wealth will not follow them down.” Ps 49:17-18 “Strive for peace with everyone, and for that holiness without which no one will see the Lord.” Heb 12:14

Lord Jesus, You call me to follow You, for only You know the way to salvation. I truly want to do what is good and pleasing and to avoid what is wrong and evil. I pray that You will purify my heart and mind with Your truth and guide me in the way of holiness that I might live out my state in life and enter heaven at my moment of death. I ask this in Your Most Holy Name, my Savior and my God. Amen

