

14 Signos de Dios Signs of God Signes de Dieu

A Word from the Postulator

For religious men and women, chastity or virginity are the object of a vow. But Fr. d'Alzon prefers to speak of the « virtue of chastity », of the «gift of virginity », of the « purity of heart » as the evangelical requirement for all Christians whether they be religious or lay. It is a virtue linked to the theological virtue of charity, that is, it's reason for being is the love of God, it is the total gift "of all my being" to Jesus' person and mission. Fr. d'Alzon is not concerned with juridical or ascetic considerations: «chastity does not need explanation»; and in the rule for the lay associates he writes: «the Brothers are committed to keeping the chastity which suits their profession» (*E.S.*, p. 1287). Chastity assumes an ardent apostolic zeal, passion for the Kingdom, for the Church, for people; "apostles, like angels, are messengers" (Dir. P. 54) Chastity frees us and makes us available «always ready to set out and to go where God sends us» (*E.S.*, p. 1279). Fr. d'Alzon lived chastity and purity of heart with characteristics which are proper to him: respect, loyalty and truthfulness in his relationships, tenderness and discretion in his friendships, a close and affectionate brotherhood towards his disciples.

Fr. Julio Navarro Román, o.a.

His love for purity

« I will dictate at random my memories insofar as they come to me. I cannot help but begin with one of the traits of Fr. d'Alzon which has most impressed me and has impressed all those among us who have approached him. What love for purity in this soul! How his exterior has always been penetrated by it ! How he knew how to inspire it ! and what angelic gift God had given him to speak of it, either in his public discourses, or in his private relationships. It is the lever by which he formed so many vocations. He inspired love for this white crown which we sensed so well that he himself had never tarnished. It seemed to me that he loved souls in proportion to their being pure, undoubtedly he gave himself to all, but I have never known him to befriend anyone but those above all suspicion. He had many enemies, they have attacked him in all possible ways, but never on this point has a single doubt ever been raised, despite the works which gave him so many relationships, he was never the object of a single doubt nor of a single attack. I knew him in his youth; his behavior was even more strict that it was later in life. To a continual mortification which I shall recount my memories later he joined forms so reserved, so severe, so marked by the highest appropriateness that even when his natural cheerfulness became obvious he never lost anything of the dignity and of the decorum which inspired respect and would not have allowed anyone the slightest act of familiarity. I believe that he always used the greatest *prudence* to avoid seeing suspicious persons to whom he needed to render a service either in the confessional or in places where there was a witness, for example, in convents.» (Saint Marie-Eugénie of Jesus': Testimony at the death of Fr d'Alzon).

In the words of Fr. d'Alzon

I can offer God no greater proof of my love for Him than to freely renounce
even lawful affections, in order to practice chastity.
(Directory, p. 55)



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What he tea

For Father d'Alzon chastity is a virtue that finds its roots in charity, in the love of Jesus and in the love of humanity that needs to be saved ; it is linked to the gift of self, to apostolic zeal, to the spirit of unity; its fruits are freedom and happiness.

1.- Chastity is proof of love

« It is from the devotion to Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament and from a childlike love of the Blessed Virgin that the members of our little family will draw the strength necessary to keep this vow. We shall try to be fully occupied at all times so that we may more easily avoid pointless or dangerous conversations. Our actions should be such that we need never fear or be ashamed to have them known; apostles, like angels, are messengers, and to be true apostles we should possess the angelic virtue of chastity. Unless our hearts are transparently innocent, we can never hope to enjoy an intimate relationship with Him Who is the eternal and pure image of the Father. (Dir. p. 54).

Fr. d'Alzon with his nephew Jea

2.- We become sim God by it

« The first of all th es of chastity is simil God. What is more pure Himself? Well, this is principle effects of Go that without changing which He created and plies within us the i union of body and soul less we can always te grace, to approach his rity. This is the work of here on earth. Oh !, wh be to such an extent th God that he shall make us the light of his face this indestructible light, which we will resembl recognizes us as his son

Marie-Eugénie Milleret

Victorin Galabert

A Word of the Postulator

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