

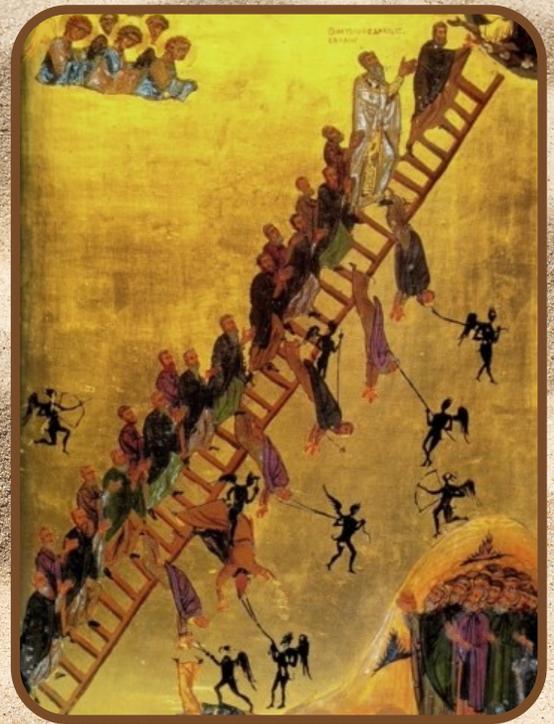
2022 Lenten Mission

The Science of Sainthood: 3 Ages of the Spiritual Life

Night #1



Presenter: Fr. Joseph Tregre
St., Genevieve Catholic Church



I. Introduction to Lent

- A Penitential Season
- Jacob's Ladder of Divine Ascent (Gen. 28:10-22)

II. Introduction to the Three Ages of the Spiritual Life

- The Purgative Way
- The Illuminative Way
- The Unitive Way

III. The Three Conversions

- First Conversion – Beginner
- Second Conversion – Proficient or Progressive
- Third Conversion – The Perfect

IV. The Dark Night of the Soul

- The Dark Night of the Senses
- The Dark Night of the Spirit

Sacred Art Pictured Above: Ladder of Divine Ascent – St. Catherine's Monastery, Egypt
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Ladder_of_Divine_Ascent



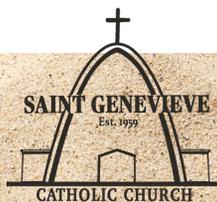
V. St. Thomas Aquinas and the Anthropology of Man

- Man Before the Fall:
 - Human Appetites - - - - > Will- - - - > Intellect
- Man After the Fall:
 - Will & Intellect - - - - > Human Appetites

VI. The Three-fold Concupiscence (CCC, 377)

- “Of all visible creatures only man is ‘able to know and love his creator.’ He is ‘the only creature on earth that God has willed for its own sake,’ and he alone is called to share, by knowledge and love, in God’s own life. It was for this end that he was created, and this is the fundamental reason for his dignity” (CCC, 356).
- “Although it is proper to each individual, original sin does not have the character of a personal fault in any of Adam’s descendants. It is a deprivation of original holiness and justice, but human nature has not been totally corrupted: it is wounded in the natural powers proper to it, subject to ignorance, suffering and the dominion of death, and inclined to sin – an inclination to evil that is called ‘concupiscence.’ Baptism, by imparting the life of Christ’s grace, erases original sin and turns a man back towards God, but the consequences for nature, weakened and inclined to evil, persist in man and summon him to spiritual battle” (CCC, 405).
- “The ‘mastery’ over the world that God offered man from the beginning was realized above all within man himself: mastery of self. The first man was unimpaired and ordered in his whole being because he was free from the triple concupiscence that subjugates him to the pleasures of the senses, covetousness for earthly goods, and self-assertion, contrary to the dictates of reason” (CCC, 377).

NOTES:



VII. The Three Temptations of Jesus in the Desert (Matthew 4:1-11)

- A. “If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread” (Matthew 4:3).
- “Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain, and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and the glory of them; and he said to him, ‘All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me’” (Matthew 4:8-9).
- “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written, ‘He will give his angels charge of you,’ and ‘On their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone’” (Matthew 4:6).

VIII. The 3 P’s (Pride. Pleasure. Possession)

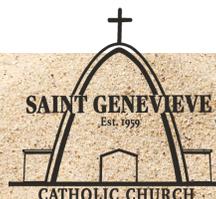
3 P’s	3 Temptations
Pride	Prove Identity As Son of God By Jumping from Temple
Pleasure	Turn Stone Into Bread
Possession	To Possess All Nations

IX. The Three-fold Concupiscence in the Fall (Genesis 3)

- “So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food” (Genesis 3:6)
- “it was a delight to the eyes” (Genesis 3:6)
- “the tree was to be desired to make one wise” (Genesis 3:6)

3 P’s	3 Temptations	The Fall
Pride	Prove Identity As Son of God by Jumping from Temple	“the tree was to be desired to make one wise”
Pleasure	Turn Stone Into Bread	“good for food”
Possession	To Possess All Nations	“delight to the eyes”

NOTES:



X. Prayer, Fasting, & Almsgiving

- “The interior penance of the Christian can be expressed in many and various ways. Scripture and Fathers insist above all on three forms, fasting, prayer, and almsgiving, which express conversion in relation to oneself, to God, and to others” (CCC, 1434).
- “Reading Sacred Scripture, praying the Liturgy of the Hours and the Our Father – every sincere act of worship or devotion revives the spirit of conversion and repentance within us and contributes to the forgiveness of our sins” (CCC, 1437).
- “The seasons and days of penance in the course of the liturgical year (Lent, and each Friday in memory of the death of the Lord) are intense moments of the Church’s penitential practice. These times are particularly appropriate for spiritual exercises, penitential liturgies, pilgrimages as signs of penance, voluntary self-denial such as fasting and almsgiving, and fraternal sharing (charitable and missionary works)” (CCC, 1438).

XI. Evangelical Counsels

- “Christ proposes the evangelical counsels, in their great variety, to every disciple. The perfection of charity, to which all the faithful are called, entails for those who freely follow the call to consecrated life the obligation of practicing chastity in celibacy for the sake of the Kingdom, poverty and obedience. It is the profession of these counsels, within a permanent state of life recognized by the Church, that characterizes the life consecrated to God” (CCC, 915).

3 P's	3 Temptations	The Fall	Mortifications	Evangelical Counsels
Pride	Prove Identity as Son of God by Jumping from Temple	“the tree was to be desired to make one wise”	Prayer	Obedience
Pleasure	Turn Stone Into Bread	“good for food”	Fasting	Chastity
Possession	To Possess All Nations	“delight to the eyes”	Almsgiving	Poverty

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