

Preface

The pages which follow are addressed especially to you, priests and seminarians of the Priestly Society of St. Pius X, to you who, on this day, will renew your promises in this Catholic and Roman society, officially approved by the Ordinary and by the Roman authorities.

If the Holy Ghost permits me to put in writing the spiritual thoughts which follow, before entering—if it please God—into the bosom of the Holy Trinity, I will be allowed to realize the dream of which He gave me a glimpse one day in the Cathedral of Dakar. In the face of the progressive degradation of the priestly ideal, my dream was to transmit the Catholic Priesthood of Our Lord Jesus Christ in all its doctrinal purity and in all its missionary charity, just as He conferred it on His Apostles, just as the Roman Church always transmitted it until the middle of the twentieth century.

How should I carry out what appeared then to me as the sole solution to revive the Church and Christianity? It was still a dream, but there appeared to me already the need, not only to confer the authentic priesthood, to teach not only the *sana doctrina* approved by the Church, but also to transmit the profound and unchanging spirit of the Catholic priesthood and of the Christian spirit, essentially bound to the great prayer of Our Lord which His Sacrifice on the Cross expresses eternally.

The priestly truth is totally dependent upon this prayer; that is why I have always been haunted by the desire to show the means for true priestly sanctification according to the fundamental principles of Catholic doctrine concerning Christian and priestly sanctification.

Gladly, I borrow the ever so expressive words of St. Paul: “For we preach not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves merely as your servants in Jesus” (II Cor. 4:5).

Remember your prelates, who have spoken the word of God to you. Consider how they ended their lives, and imitate their faith. Jesus Christ is the same, yesterday and today, yes, and forever. *Jesus Christus heri, hodie, et in sæcula* (Heb. 13:7-8).

Behold their faith!

It is because the reign of Our Lord is no longer the center of attention and of activity for those who are our *prepositi* [our prelates], that they lose the sense of God and of the Catholic Priesthood, and that we can no longer follow them.

O Immaculate Virgin, who, by the extraordinary privilege of your Immaculate Conception, dost teach us all of the fundamental truths of our Faith and hast merited to be the Mother of the Eternal Priest, form in us the Priest of Jesus Christ and make us less unworthy to participate in this Divine Priesthood!

† Marcel Lefebvre

On the Feast of the Immaculate Conception
of the Blessed Virgin Mary, 1989

To purchase the entire book *Spiritual Journey*
by Archbishop Lefebvre, please visit <http://www.angeluspress.org/>