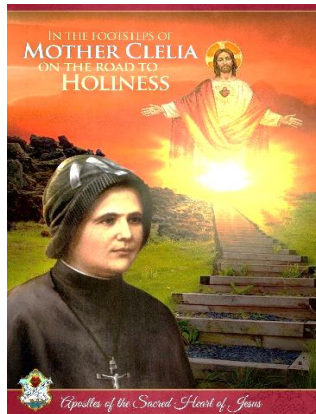




Reflection 4- Holiness



Blessed Mother Clelia A Woman Rich in God

Luke 12:16-21

Then he told them a parable. "There was a rich man whose land produced a bountiful harvest. He asked himself, 'What shall I do, for I do not have space to store my harvest?' And he said, 'This is what I shall do: I shall tear down my barns and build larger ones. There I shall store all my grain and other goods and I shall say to myself, "Now as for you, you have so many good things stored up for many years, rest, eat, drink, be merry!"' But God said to him, 'You fool, this night your life will be demanded of you; and the things you have prepared, to whom will they belong?' Thus will it be for the one who stores up treasure for himself but is not rich in what matters to God."

The Gospel invites us to peer into the depths of our heart, to see where we find our security in life. Usually the rich feel secure in their wealth, and think that, if that wealth is threatened, the whole meaning of their earthly life can collapse. Jesus himself tells us this in the parable of the rich fool: he speaks of a man who was sure of himself, yet foolish, for it did not dawn on him that he might die that very day (cf. *Lk 12:16-21*). The Gospel invites us to peer into the depths of our heart, to see where we find our security in life. Usually the rich feel secure in their wealth, and think that, if that wealth is threatened, the whole meaning of their earthly life can collapse. Jesus himself tells us this in the parable of the rich fool: he speaks of a man who was sure of himself, yet foolish, for it did not dawn on him that he might die that very day (cf. *Lk 12:16-21*) (*Pope Francis, Gaudete et exsultate, 67,68*).

Mother Clelia: a woman rich in God

Imagine a woman who gave her whole life and all that she had for a work dedicated to the Sacred. Heart. She was impelled by love and a dedication without equal.

“You have to put your thoughts, your words, and actions into right order, not according to your taste, but according to the will of God manifested by means of lights, divine inspirations, and through the one who directs your soul.

From now on, I resolve never to become attached to anyone but You, my God. If I should foresee that a single thought of my mind, a single affection of my heart, or a single action of my hand should be for others and not for You, I would rather be without mind, heart, or hand” (*from the Diary of Mother Clelia*).

“May the Heart of Jesus be our All; hidden in Him let us forget every created thing and let the cross, abjection, and especially perfect resignation to His most holy will be dear to us” (*Spiritual Anthology, 4.1 Mg., II, p.80*).

“Mother Clelia was a woman who loved the Lord from childhood, in an unfailing and trusting manner. Her discovery of the infinite love of Christ, summed up in the Sacred Heart, made her strong and trusting, even in the years of tribulation. Her love of God, her profound surrender to his will, and her certainty that no trial is devoid of meaning and value, were the secret of her holiness. The active life does not become dissipated but rather bears fruit only if it is sustained by a deep contemplative dimension, only if it is rooted in faith that has truly experienced the luminous and calming presence of the Risen One” (*Beatification of Mother Clelia, Message of Thanks of Cardinal Angelo De Donatis*).

A Story

A rich man arrived in Paradise. The first thing he did was look around the marketplace and, to his surprise, found that the goods were being sold at very low prices. He immediately pulled out his wallet and began picking out the nicest things he saw. When it came time to pay, he gave the angel who was the cashier a handful of large bills. The angel smiled and said to him, “I’m sorry, but this cash has no value.” “How can that be,” asked the stunned man. The angel replied, “Here the only money that counts is that which was given away on earth.”

Today, don’t forget your fortune for Heaven.

To Ponder

Each day God continues to act in history, announcing a new world. How? Through women and men of good will, daughters and sons who have the courage to live the Gospel.

- **How do I devote myself to becoming holy?**
- **Is my heart free to love, to give or myself, to serve?**

Prayer

O my God, my Creator and Supreme Master, if You have created me to be all Yours, may my only occupation and my only good be to serve, praise, and love You (from the Diary of Mother Clelia).

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*Sacred Heart of Jesus, I trust and hope in
You!*

The rich man said to himself: “You have so many good things . . . , rest, eat, drink, be merry!” God said to him, “You fool, this night your life will be demanded of you; and the things you have prepared, to whom will they belong?” (cf. Luke 12:19-20).

