

Hints for prayer

Psalm 91

Whoever, by faith, chooses God as their protector will find in Him everything they need or could desire

You who dwell in the shelter of the Most High,^z
who abide in the shade of the Almighty,^z
Say to the LORD, "My refuge and fortress,
my God in whom I trust."

He will rescue you from the fowler's snare,
from the destroying plague,
He will shelter you with his pinions,
and under his wings you may take refuge;
his faithfulness is a protecting shield.

You shall not fear the terror of the night
nor the arrow that flies by day,
Nor the pestilence that roams in darkness,
nor the plague that ravages at noon.

Because you have the **LORD** for your refuge
and have made the Most High your stronghold,
No evil shall befall you,
no affliction come near your tent.

For he commands his angels with regard to you,
to guard you wherever you go.
With their hands they shall support you,
lest you strike your foot against a stone.

Because he clings to me I will deliver him;
because he knows my name I will set him on high.

He will call upon me and I will answer;^l
I will be with him in distress;
I will deliver him and give him honor.
With length of days I will satisfy him,
and fill him with my saving power.

Prayer

O God, who called saints to seek your Kingdom in this world through the pursuit of perfect charity, grant, we pray, through their intercession that we may advance with joyful spirit along the way of love. Through our Lord Jesus Christ.

cf. Collect from the Common of Saints, Roman Missal



A spirituality that makes father

with Father Gaetano de Luca



Edited by

sr. Deuzilene Ferreira, sr. Anna Vanzin, sr. Agnieszka Zdeb, sr. Afi Kotobissa,
sr. Kasia Kloc, sr. Jeannette Wiyao, sr. Christine Ogoulou, and sr. Leen Halasah,
Sisters Masters of Saint Dorothy, Daughters of the Sacred Hearts, Vicenza.

Allow me to introduce myself: I am Father Gaetano de Luca.

Vicenza, July 4, 1779 - Treviso, January 13, 1857

When one path closes, God opens another.

I was in Vicenza when, due to the Napoleonic suppressions, I was forced to leave the Carmelite convent where I had been living, and I had to find another place to continue my life as a consecrated man. I did not want to suspend my mission; I felt I had to remain close to the people, to listen to them, to accompany them... and so I chose to stay in my city, accepting the gift of being able to live in the rectory of my brother, who was the parish priest of Santo Stefano.

In those years, I found refuge in the Hearts of Jesus and Mary: they were my light, my guide, my support, my comfort. And just as they were for me, I wished them to be so for others: around me, a small group of friends had formed—religious and laypeople, young and old—with whom I shared the spirituality of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary... they embraced the spirituality of the Sacred Hearts fully, not as a sterile devotion, but expressing it through concrete acts of charity, through passion for the poor, for the children of God's Kingdom!

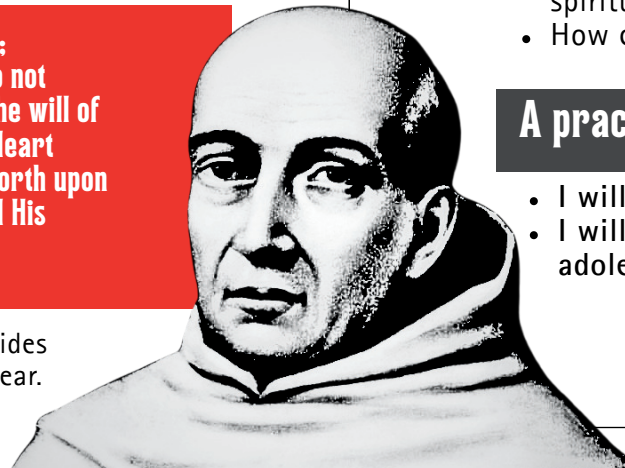
Among them was Count Baldassare Porta, a noble man by family and even more so by sentiment, generous beyond measure! When his "School of Charity" at the parish of San Pietro began to falter, he asked me to whom he could entrust it, and I spoke to him about Father Giovanni Antonio Farina, a young priest in love with the Lord, full of desires and dreams, with whom I shared the richness of the Sacred Hearts so much that I had become a spiritual father to him.

It was a privilege to accompany him, especially when Father Antonio was appointed Bishop of Treviso, where I had moved in 1838 upon returning to the restored convent of San Girolamo! He was still young and very frightened by the appointment, so I wrote to him to encourage him... and even though he had become my bishop, he was still, after all, my son!

"Most Reverend, place your trust in that most loving Heart; in It, all things will be possible for you. Do not struggle, do not resist, but bow in reverence and find your consolation in the will of God. Thorns, nails, and the cross indeed, the Most Sacred Heart will make them part of this reality; yet He will also pour forth upon you abundantly His rays of light, His flames of charity, and His consolations."

(cf. Positio on the life and virtues of Giovanni Antonio Farina)

I kept reminding him of what sustained me as well: God guides everything; trust in His Heart, and you will have nothing to fear.



Master and father of spirituality from yesterday...

...and today!

Children today often seem orphans, lacking fathers. The Church too needs fathers.(...) Being a father entails introducing children to life and reality. Not holding them back, being overprotective or possessive, but rather making them capable of deciding for themselves, enjoying freedom and exploring new possibilities.

Pope Francis, Apostolic Letter "Patris Corde"

"Just as Jesus loved with a human heart, so you are called to love with the Heart of Christ! [in Spanish: To love with the heart of Jesus!] To learn this art, however, you need to work on your interior life. That is the place where God makes his voice heard, and where the deepest decisions of our lives take shape. It is also the place where you will encounter the tensions and struggles (Mk 7:14-23) that summon you to conversion, so that your entire life can breathe the fragrance of the Gospel. Your first job, then, is to work on your interior life."

Meditation by His Holiness Pope Leo XIV for seminarians on the occasion of their jubilee, June 24, 2025.

**Like Father Gaetano, we nurture our inner life...
...and live our fatherhood.**

Some questions to reflect on



- How do you take care of your spiritual life?
- What values do you consider most important for your spirituality?
- How can one exercise the role of a father today?

A practical step for today

- I will either visit or call an individual who is unwell.
- I will devote special attention to children and adolescents; I will offer them my utmost affection.



To discover more about our history,
please visit our website at sdvi.org.

