

LEAD, KINDLY LIGHT

MINUTE MEDITATIONS FOR EVERY DAY
TAKEN FROM THE WORKS
OF CARDINAL NEWMAN

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Illustrated



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JANUARY 21

Corporate Worship

TRESS is to be laid upon the duty of united worship. "Where two or three are gathered together in His name, He is in the midst of them" (Mt 18:20).


Christ is so one with them, that they are not their own, they lose for the time their earth-strains. Viewed as one, the Church is still His image as at the first, pure and spotless, His spouse all-glorious within, the Mother of Saints.

—*Glory of the Church*

PRAYER. Help me realize, O God, that when I join together with others in offering the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, I am joined to countless others all over the world who praise You.

JANUARY 22

Channels of Redemption

T is certain from Scripture that the gift of reconciliation is not conveyed to individuals except through appointed ordinances. Sacraments are the channels of the peculiar Christian privileges, and not merely seals of the covenant.

Though Christ has purchased inestimable blessings for our race, yet it is still necessary to apply them to individuals by visible means.

—*Christian Ministry*

PRAYER. My Savior, You have left me the Sacraments as a means of increasing Your grace in my soul. Let me always be grateful.

FEBRUARY 14

Christ's Immortality



WHEN the Word of Life was manifested in our flesh, the Holy Spirit displayed that creative hand by which, in the beginning, Eve was formed; and the Holy Child, thus conceived by the power of the Highest, was immortal even in His mortal nature, sinless and incorruptible.

Death "had no dominion over Him" (Rom 6:19). He was in the words of the text, "the Living among the dead" (Lk 24:5).

—*Christ, a Quickening Spirit*

PRAYER. *Christ's rising from the dead, O God, has filled the hearts of His followers with joy. Let me be joined in glory to the Saints.*

FEBRUARY 15

Christ's Saving Grace

SUCH is our risen Savior in Himself and toward us: conceived by the Holy Spirit; dying, but abhorring corruption; rising again by His own inherent life; exalted as the Son of God and Son of Man, to raise us after Him; and filling us incomprehensibly with His immortal nature. How wonderful a work of grace!


Strange it was that Adam should be our death but stranger still that God Himself should be our life!

—*Christ, a Quickening Spirit*

PRAYER. *Jesus, my Savior, You suffered, died, and rose again for my sake. Keep me close to You, every day of my life.*

JULY 25

Obedience Follows Belief


 T. John says, "Hereby do we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments" (1 Jn 2:3). Thus the whole duty and work of a Christian is made up of these two parts, Faith and Obedience: "looking unto Jesus," the Divine Object as well as Author of our faith, and acting according to His will.

A certain frame of mind, certain notions, affections, and tempers, a necessary condition of a saving state, will follow if our hearts grow into these two chief objects. —*Saving Knowledge*

PRAYER. O God, help me to know and love You more and to rejoice in Your Commandments.

JULY 26

Conforming to the Gospel

 OW then is it possible that a man can duly examine his feelings and affections by the light within him? How can he accurately decide upon their character, whether Christian or not?

It is necessary that he go out of himself to ascertain the nature of the principles which govern him; he must have recourse to his works, and compare them with Scripture, as the only evidence whether or not his heart is perfect with God. —*Saving Knowledge*

PRAYER. Christ, my Savior, let my life always conform to Your teaching. Let the Sacred Scriptures and Your Church ever be my guide.

AUGUST 12

Proof of Our Love



MAN says to himself, "How am I to know I am in earnest?" I would suggest to him: Make some sacrifice, do some distasteful thing, which you are not actually obliged to do.

Bring home to your mind that in fact you do love your Savior, that you do hate sin, that you have put aside the present world. Thus you will have evidence (to a certain point) that you are not using mere words.—*Test of Religious Earnestness*

PRAYER. Almighty God, grant me the grace to give me courage to witness to You wherever I go.

AUGUST 13

Renewal of the Lord's Death



TAKE this view of the Lord's Supper as the appointed means of obtaining the great blessings you need. The daily prayers of the Christian do but spring from, and are referred back to, his attendance on it.

Christ died once: by communicating in His Sacrament, you renew the Lord's death; you bring into the midst of you that Sacrifice which took away the sins of the world; you appropriate the benefit of it, while you eat it under the species of bread and wine. —*Sins of Ignorance*

PRAYER. Eucharistic Lord, come into my heart and rule over my whole life. Grant that I may ever live in You, and You in me.