

Do not worry if they get upset about you ... Just worry about GOD, your neighbour and about your soul. If someone is bothering you, accept it and offer it up for his conversion. If someone hurts you, think: „He is an instrument of GOD in order to sanctify me.“ – Indeed, keep smiling, as it is sung in a song in “The Land of Smiles”, in the operetta of Lehár. Smiling in spite of all the grief and a thousand pains. Amen!

### Anecdote – My Body Is Food Indeed

As I received the consecrated Host, the SAVIOUR let me know: „You receive Me with awe indeed and you are aware of who is lying on your tongue. But have you ever just tried eating Me like food? – My Body and My Blood are food indeed – food of the soul. Am I not tastier than all other food and I am doing it for you! Therefore relish My Body more than the most delicious food.“

Sermon of 29 February 2004



Schwert-Bischof  
JESU CHRISTI

**Be blessed by GOD TRINITY,  
the + FATHER and the + SON  
and the + HOLY GHOST. Amen!**

Schwert-Bischof  
JESU CHRISTI  
sb.



### Good Seed – Fertile Soil

The Gospel says today: „The sower went out to sow his seed. Some seed fell by the wayside, other seed fell upon the rock and other seed fell among thorns, other seed fell upon good ground.“ Lk 8,5ff My question is: „Do these admonishing words of the Gospel go only for the listeners as it would seem? The sower is obviously the preacher – so it cannot concern him. No, only a preacher who is full of himself will think like that; a preacher who would assume: „I sow only good seed, yet the people allow it to be trodden down, to be stolen, to wither, to choke ...“

Preacher, you must always ask yourself: „What is the origin of my seed? Have I hunted down this seed from some (godless) literature or other? Have I taken the words of the sermon just out of my (narrow-minded, stubborn) head? Have I merely used my own discretion in speaking?“ If so, I can assure you that your word is only chaff even if you have taken the greatest trouble over it! Consequently, your seed is infertile and the most arable soil will be no good to you.

It is the preacher's duty to sanctify those entrusted to him. In order to be able to do this, however, he must ask for the HOLY SPIRIT with all his heart and with great concern, for himself and for the faithful. The seed of the preacher will be the most fertile if he asks GOD for it in a silent, inner struggle, indeed maybe in tears before the altar. The preacher, too, must strive for holiness and strike his breast in contrition: „Mea culpa – through my fault.“

Of course, you are allowed to take seeds from your own “treasury” as well, that is to draw from your own knowledge and experience. Basically what it says is: „The preacher, who has been instructed in the

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kingdom of heaven, who has experienced the school of GOD, is like a householder who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.”  
Mt 13,52

If your word has not been made fruitful by the HOLY SPIRIT, then it is simply fruitless. Then it is flat, saltless. The mind gives the seed corn only the outer shell, the letter, the shape of the word. This shell is necessary, therefore we pray: „Come, GOD HOLY GHOST, enlighten our minds.“ Be well aware, however, that the word of GOD is not the one you have thought up yourself, but the one you have received from GOD by struggling; the word that has been fertilized by the HOLY SPIRIT in a struggling prayer; the one you have drawn from Holy Scripture and from books inspired by GOD. Here st John-Marie Vianney, the holy parish priest of Ars, comes to mind. His simple words were permeated with the HOLY SPIRIT.

### **The Fertile Soil – Your Heart**

And now to you, believing listener, how about you? Have you prepared your heart for the divine seed? Have you opened your heart for the word of GOD? Ask your Guardian Angel that he may open it for you. Otherwise the divine seed will just not fall into your heart, not fall upon fertile soil, but upon rocky ground, among thorns ... The good earth which the SAVIOUR speaks of is your open heart cleansed from sin. Ask the HOLY SPIRIT that He may enlighten the preacher, that He may reveal to you the preacher’s word. Pray: „Come, GOD HOLY GHOST, fill and govern me, that I may do in the Spirit of JESUS CHRIST what is pleasing to my Heavenly FATHER!“ – The gist of what st Augustine once said is: The sermon is the word of GOD and therefore as valuable as JESUS’ Precious Blood in the chalice. Who, therefore, does not pay attention to the sermon, who listens to it indifferently, he takes, so to speak, the chalice with JESUS’ Precious Blood and spills it onto the floor.

Often I hear: „What do I do wrong? Although I am listening to the sermon attentively, I hardly remember anything of it afterwards.“ – My beloved, how does the saying go: „The grain of wheat must die in order to bear fruit!“ It is the same with the word of GOD. If it falls on fertile soil in your heart, it dissolves in it, dies, and is consumed by the new shoot to bear fruit hundredfold. That is why you do not remember this word any more. „You will know them by their fruits ...“, the SAVIOUR says. Mt 7,16 Do not, therefore,

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allow yourself to be put off by feelings. Yet know that the seed needs time and nourishment in order to bear fruit.

### **To Become Holy – A Grace of GOD**

My beloved, every man has got the call and grace to become holy. For only what is holy can enter the kingdom of Heaven. Are you treading this path? There are holy comedians and holy actors. There are holy poor men and holy rich men. There are holy mothers, fathers, children, there are holy persons among those consecrated to GOD. Whether poor or rich, whether sick or healthy, whether old or young, whether in sin or virtuous. The more you are having a hard time, the more trouble it takes you to walk the road to holiness, the bigger your chances are. So there is no excuse! Are you poor, in that case you and the Holy Family are kindred spirits. Are you rich, then GOD has showered gifts upon you that you may be charitable as Lazarus was. Are you a sinner – CHRIST has come for the sinners.

Some say: „I venerate the saints, st Clare, st Elisabeth; when I have lost something I always pray to st Anthony of Padua ...“ But my beloved, that is not by any means veneration of the saints. Enquire into the lives of saints, search what their lives of virtue consisted in, and then imitate their holy lives. Practise to have the same striving for virtue as your example did. Does the SAVIOUR not say: „If anyone wishes to come after me, let him deny himself, take up his cross and follow Me.“ Mt 16,24 However, a mother of a family cannot leave her children to themselves, enter a convent to imitate, for example, the life of st Theresa of the Infant JESUS. Yet she can strive to emulate this saint’s life in her heart.

### **Spiritual Martyrdom**

In the first centuries there were many martyrs, people who often had to die a horrible death because of their faith in CHRIST. And yet I say: The spiritual martyrdom that is to be borne today, if one loves the SAVIOUR and His Church, is crueller. This martyrdom does not end. This continuous, terrible pain in the heart about the decline of the Church, about the Church’s blind leadership is so saddening and so painful – it is crucifixion. Was it not the same with the SAVIOUR?

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