

opened wide enough that this peace from GOD can flow to you abundantly. And should this channel one day be blocked up, well, there is a marvellous facility: the confessional – the Sacrament of redemption.

Every now and then I would like hearing confession myself, but I am seriously worried that some would come into the confessional with a craving to see miracles, although in the confessional I act naturally as a confessor, and so they will lose a lot of grace and strength even on entering the confessional. But it could also happen that I would be compelled to say lovingly to one or two: „Tell me, would you not want to go back again into the chapel in order to examine your conscience more thoroughly and to arouse contrition and repentance once again while I pray for you?“ Some would gain much strength in doing so and their fidelity would grow stronger; others, however, might be offended and will come back no more. This is a further reason why I hardly dare do it. In conclusion: „If you speak, your speech should be better than your silence would have been.“ Amen!

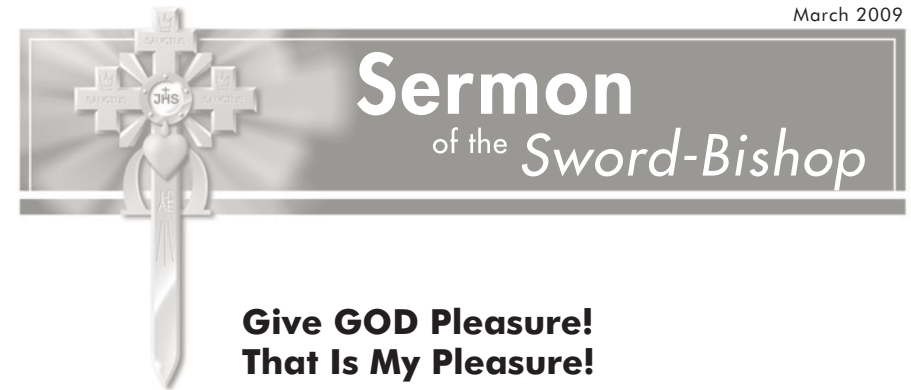
Excerpt from the sermon of 1 January 2008



Schwert-Bischof
JESU CHRISTI

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

Schwert-Bischof
JESU CHRISTI
sb.



Give GOD Pleasure! That Is My Pleasure!

My beloved, many times I am asked which present I might be pleased with. My reply: „If you give pleasure to GOD, that will be my greatest pleasure!“ I am deeply affected and pleased if a person is trying to love GOD. Make use of the Mother of GOD, she will teach you this love. GOD Himself has trained me in it so that I cannot imagine a greater joy.

About Love of Neighbour

Look, the Main Commandment consists of two parts: of love of GOD and of love of neighbour. „You shall love the LORD your GOD with your whole heart, with your whole soul, with your whole mind and with your whole strength and your neighbour as yourself!“ In the love of GOD, however, you will never be sure whether it is really love. Because you can neither see nor touch GOD. But be assured, GOD looks into your heart. He knows the disposition of your heart and sees what you want to do to please Him, and He will take that into account. In the second part of the Main Commandment, in the love of neighbour, you will find a marvellous self-examination. Because everything you do for your neighbour is as if it were done for GOD. At the Last Judgement, GOD will even judge you according to your love of neighbour: „Come, you who are blessed by my Father! ... For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat ... Then the righteous will answer him: Lord, when did we see you hungry and

feed you ... And the King will reply: Verily, I say to you: whatever you did for one of these brothers of mine, you did for me." (Matth. 25,34ff)

The SAVIOUR had great trouble with the Apostles until they understood this love of neighbour. Because in the Old Covenant the law of retaliation was effective. Thus the SAVIOUR taught them: „You have heard that it was said: ‚Love your neighbour‘ (Lev 19,18) and hate your enemy. But I tell you: Love your enemies [do good to those who hate you,] and pray for those who persecute [and calumniate] you ... For if you love those who love you, what reward shall you have? ... And if you greet only your brothers, what do you more? Do not even pagans do that?“ (Matth. 5,43ff)

It is part of true love of neighbour that your deed or gift pleases your neighbour and is not primarily a satisfaction for yourself. That means that you have to examine your neighbour, what he is like, what his taste is, what gives him pleasure or could be useful for him. With abstract or surrealist art for instance you would not do me any favour, with pictures of deformed shapes, whose eyes are painted where the nose should be, and the like. To comply with the neighbour's wishes must, of course, be always pleasing to GOD. If someone had become a slave to pornography, you should not on any account give him such a sinful picture. I would deliberately give him a good picture in order to take his mind off things.

„... do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing ...“

Your merit will become all the greater, the more trouble it takes you to show an act of love. But if you are aware that you are offering this love to the SAVIOUR, you will find it easier. On the other hand, your love must not choke your neighbour. It is most deserving if nobody else but GOD alone notices the act of your love: „... do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing ...“ (Matth. 6,3) This sometimes takes an effort of will, because you also want to stand well with the people, but remember: GOD sees it, the Angels and Saints see it. Surely it is better for you to win recognition from the whole Heaven than from a few

people on earth. The reward for such hidden behaviour will be great in Heaven.

Speech – Silence

I have received a wonderful proverb: „If you speak, your speech should be better than your silence would have been.“

Is it not so that many people just keep talking ... It is unbelievable how so many people empty themselves. They talk and talk without giving you a chance to speak. They do exactly the same with GOD: they enter the church, keep talking away at GOD, recite one prayer after the other, then say "Amen!", make the sign of the cross and leave again. These are people who do not practise the contemplation in silence nor ponder on GOD in silence.

When you retire for prayer, you should afterwards be silent for a little while while devoting yourself to contemplation. Ponder on GOD, what His reaction to your prayer might have been, whether He looked kind or rather sceptical. GOD has given you a wonderful gift: the imagination. Make use of this gift and GOD will enhance it in you. I assure you: if you pray like that, in church or at home, and even if you devote yourself for just two or three minutes to contemplative silence, then you will come out filled with new strength and peace.

If you make every possible endeavour, GOD will always give you a very wonderful present: peace! Did not the SAVIOUR say when He was still living among men: „Peace be with you!“ or: „Peace to this house!“ St Nicholas of Flue used to say: „Peace is always in GOD!“

The Peace of GOD Be with You!

The greeting of peace in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass is always very important to me. When I say: „Peace be with and among you!“, then it is coming from the bottom of my heart. It is my deepest wish to give you this peace. Not that I would be able to give you this peace, but as a bishop I am able to bestow GOD's peace. Your hearts must only be
