

## VISIT #11, THE FIFTH REQUEST OF THE COVENANT OF LOVE

### **“FULFILL YOUR DUTIES FAITHFULLY”**



#### IN THE SPIRIT OF COVENANT SPIRITUALITY:

(From THE THREE PILLARS pages 170-172):

**Our Thrice Admirable Mother says to us in her Covenant of Love, “fulfill your duties faithfully.” In the Covenant, the Blessed Mother requires that we carry out our duties faithfully, especially those that are intrinsic to our being, to our state in life and to the activities we have chosen.**

#### **Duty, the result of objective norms**

Duty is not what we wish to do or what we feel like doing in the moment, or what brings us personal gain. Duty results from **objective norms which are an expression of God’s loving will for us** and therefore are not determined by feelings. Duty describes the conduct that is required of us by very clear and definite norms: by the sense of justice, the dictates of our conscience and the well-being of others, the demands of morality, God’s laws, the demands of one’s occupation and position, etc.

#### **Variety of duties**

We are born into a host of duties. Because of our endeavors to fulfill these duties we can live in security and peace, and will be able to realize our purpose in life and reach our final destiny.

#### **There are duties proper to:**

- (1) A **human being** which make men and women different from the world of animals.
- (2) The different states of life:
  - The duty of **youth** to grow, to learn, to apply himself and unfold his talents and gifts, etc.
  - The duty of **married persons** as parents toward their children and as spouses toward each other.
  - The duty of a **single person** to live his life in a God-willed way.
  - The duty of **persons committed to the religious life** to live according to the constitution of their respective community.
- (3) The duty of **citizens toward their country** to observe the laws and uphold a proper conduct.
- (4) The duty of **members of the Church** to fulfill the precepts of the Church, the Ten Commandments, all that is expressed in Holy Scripture and by the teaching office of the Church.
- (5) The duty as a **child of God** to give glory and honor to God at all times.
- (6) Our duties increase as **the scope of our responsibilities broaden** to include, for instance, the care of elderly parents, or for handicapped persons, etc.
- (7) We also accept certain duties with **the commitments that we choose** to make to organizations, committees, etc.
- (8) Duties that **are common to the people of a given nation or to a particular working group or team, etc.** must be not only reinforced by law, but also understood and heeded by all concerned, if we want to live in peace, security, and harmony.

The fulfillment of our duties creates and secures order, gives clear directives and outlines the path which will lead us to perfection. The more faithfully we follow that road and fulfill our respective duties, the more secure and interiorly free we will become because essentially, there will be no worries. If we neglect our duties we will have to bear the consequences which are determined by our intentions and the gravity of the matter.

## **Fulfillment of our duties**

The fulfillment of individual duties is not a matter of choice or of a free-will decision in the moment. It is a natural consequence of the free choices we have previously made and of our obligation in obedience to an authority. But there is still ample room for free-will decisions:

- (1) We can decide to keep our commitments or to dissolve them.
- (2) We can make decisions as to how we wish to fulfill our duties:
  - to perform them especially well or half- heartedly or
  - do just the very minimum so that the law is fulfilled.

**THROUGH THIS ENCOUNTER,** with thanksgiving and gratitude, let us pray to be open to our Blessed Mother's request to, **"fulfill our duties faithfully"**. Let us pray to receive this grace which she is offering to us so that we can grow in **COVENANT SPIRITUALITY** with her and with the Triune God through her motherly education and intercession.

## **REFLECTION:**

The perfect performance of our duties is dependent on the decisions of our mind and will, independent of our emotions and feelings in the moment. Love shall motivate us to do not only what is necessary and demanded of us, but in addition, to constantly search for more perfect ways to carry out our duty and to do even more than is required of us. When we strive to fulfill our duties faithfully and even most faithfully, we can make a great contribution toward the renewal of our time.

## **COMMIT:**

**Ponder your duties according to your vocation**— these are your Contributions to the Capital of Grace to be offered and united with the Eucharistic Liturgy. Your special resolution this month could be to take an honest look at your duties that need deeper commitment and with more love.

**PRAY: The 4<sup>th</sup> Joyful Mystery – The Presentation in the Temple:** pray to be the obedient one in imitation of Mary who fulfilled her duties faithfully. Do I follow the gentle promptings from God and respond beyond the call of duty? Does and has the obedient responses to duty resulted in **joy, security, peace, and harmony**?