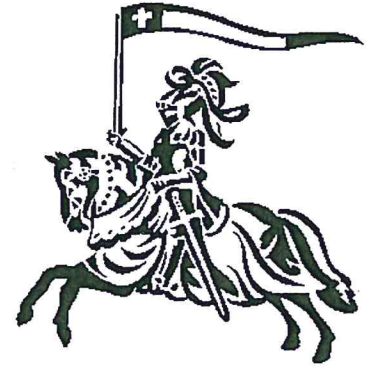


*Begin this examination of conscience by placing yourself in the Lord's presence. Become aware of His love surrounding you and filling you to overflowing. Be filled with the desire to draw into closer union with the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Choose to let go of anything that is preventing you from this union.*



## EXAMINATION OF CONSCIENCE—AVARICE

### *Daily Life*

- Do I have an inordinate love and desire to possess and hoard things? money? knowledge? time? talent?
- In what areas of my life have I become overly materialistic?
- Has this materialism and desire to possess caused harm to myself, my family, or community?
- What things do I desire which I cannot have?
- Do I look to my possessions and bank account for security?
- Do I feel fearful when my self-sufficiency is threatened?
- St. Paul says, "The love of money is the root of all evil" (1 Tm 6:10). Do I believe this?
- Do I have an inordinate need to possess?
- Has my excessive desire to possess and accumulate riches ever led me to lying, fraud, violence, restlessness, or hard-heartedness?
- Where is my selfishness and self-centeredness robbing my family and community of resources?
- How does my excessive desire to accumulate affect my willingness to share with those less fortunate than myself?
- In what ways do I display a true spirit of generosity?
- In what ways do I need to be more generous?
- Where do I see that my love for money is leading me away from the Lord?
- Do I have a false attachment to home, amusements, books, furniture, or precious things?

### *First Commandment: "I am the Lord your God; you shall not have strange gods before me."*

- On what occasions do I adore and make money and earthly possessions my god?
- Do I experience a normal, healthy use of things as a *means* to live a comfortable life, or have these things become the *ends*?
- In what cases do I "worship" the created good rather than the Creator?
- Do I experience more satisfaction in possessing things than in the things themselves?
- Do I run the risk of having my passion to possess things take over and possess me instead?
- On what occasions do I sacrifice everything, my family, my time, and all my energies in order to possess and accumulate additional wealth?
- What can I do in order to get a proper balance between providing for my family and trusting in the Lord to provide?
- Do I hoard because I do not trust that God will provide?
- Will I do anything necessary to possess riches?

### *Tenth Commandment: "You shall not covet your neighbor's goods."*

- Do I desire to amass worldly goods without limit? Do I always want more than I need?
- Do I feel more powerful as my net worth increases?
- What are the areas of attachment where I still do not let the Father have control?
- How does seeing what others have that I don't have but want, hinder me from living simply?

### ***In my spiritual life***

How grateful am I?

Is the Lord my only wealth?

Do I cling to my good works in an effort to earn heaven?

In what ways do I seek first God's kingship and His way of holiness?

What is preventing me from embracing the Cross with both hands?

In what ways do I run from mortification and spiritual poverty?

When do I have difficulty saying, "Into Your hands I commend my spirit?"

Am I truly generous in giving my life to the Lord?

In what areas am I greedy with my life?

Where do I need to embrace this charism of intercession more wholeheartedly?

Do I generously allow my family and my self to be used in this battle for souls?

In what ways have I experienced, "Yet I live, no longer I, but Christ lives in me" (Gal 2:20).

Where do I need to depend more on God and less on things?

Where is this dependence on God most frightening and difficult for me?

Where do I have difficulty keeping my eyes focused on Jesus?

Am I willing to let go of all my good actions and works?

Have I become so attached to spiritual consolations that I become unhappy when no longer receiving them?

Am I attached to religious practices, devotions, rituals, sacramentals, and religious articles?

### ***Vow / Promise of Poverty***

Is my vow / promise of poverty a cause for joy in my life?

Where do I experience joy in my vow / promise of poverty?

What am I doing to embrace this vow / promise more fully?

What can I do to become more detached interiorly?

Where is my poverty a burden?

Where is this not a whole-hearted gift?

In what ways do I break this vow / promise of poverty?

Do I keep the spirit of the law or the letter of the law regarding poverty?

Where do I experience joy in doing without?

Where has the Lord been pointing out that I need to be more detached from material goods?

Do I allow my affections to be unduly strong for persons, places, or things?

### ***Community / Family Life***

How do I show my respect for the things that are intended for common use?

Do I take more than what is my fair share?

Do I have a sense of ownership of communal property?

Am I possessive of my things?

In what ways do I readily share my goods, time, love, and talent?

Do my actions or lack of action cause another to fall into the sin of avarice?

Consider one or two areas where you struggle with avarice the most. Does there seem to be a common thread or reason why you struggle in these areas? Journal any insights and feelings with the Lord. Listen for His words of love and counsel. Throughout the week take time to ponder, "What profit would there be for one to gain the whole world and forfeit his life?" (Mt 16:26) Journal.