

Life of the Spirit

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THE CHRISTIAN WAY OF LIFE



MEMBER of Christ's mystical body lives by the life of Christ. He cannot, of course, play the full part that the Word-made-flesh himself played while on earth. But it is his mission to combine with the other members in fulfilling the whole of the Saviour's mode of life. The arm or the hand or the foot of Jesus taken individually did not do his works. But together with the rest of the body informed by the soul and impersonated by the divine Word they fulfilled that great mission. And even now the hands and the feet, the arms and the lips of Jesus go about the entire world united in his soul and divinity, fulfilling and bringing perfection to the life of the Saviour. For this reason the great model to which every Christian must turn is that earthly life itself which Jesus the Son of Mary, the Word made flesh, lived during his three years of individual activity on earth. There were other years which must be taken into account and followed by those called thereto, years of simple family life, hidden and shrouded in physical labour with hands and arms, fashioning what was required in a village from the carpenter's craft. But the years when the carpenter's shed and his village were left behind and the Father together with the Spirit was working with him the works of salvation, these are the years to which every Christian looks for his inspiration. Then was the perfect human life carried forward towards victory over death.

For this reason we set out below a translation of St Thomas's short question on Christ's mode of life during those three years. Anyone who desires to be an apostle, anyone who looks to 'Catholic Action' as a vocation, should read these words carefully. But again, those who choose a solitary life, or the way of contemplation alone, they too must look to see how their prayers and penances are to bear fruit in the other members with whom they live as one in the saving Body of Christ.

THE EDITOR.