

Viatorian Spirituality

Key Points

1. Adored And Loved Be Jesus – a motto. Jesus should be above all things.

Be imitators of Jesus

All of Father Querbes' advice is rooted in one essential sentence: "Our lives are to resemble that of Jesus." In a third point, he describes Jesus "in the midst of a world where He chose to live." How "easily was He able to communicate, what tenderness for the poor, the infirm, the little children." His indignation centers upon the hypocrites, the temple buyers and sellers, the Pharisees.

He closes with these exhortations:

"Be zealous, wise, edifying, always ready to follow the example of Jesus ... Let us be His image at table, in prayer, in our conversation ... The Gospel will tell us how. Let each of us say to himself: What would Jesus say, do, think?" – From a reflection given by Fr. Querbes to Viatorians.

2. Trust in divine providence – do the right thing, sacrifice for God and all will be well. He worked hard and fought through a lot of obstacles to found the Viatorians.

This also included detachment from outward success, accolades and awards. Doing God's will was key.

You should not become too attached to where you are, but rather to your assignment, as though you were to remain there for a lifetime; and, at the same time, be ready to leave at any moment as though you had never been there. Work, my dear friend, work unceasingly at your duties of state and your present assignment. Be a little less preoccupied with yourself and all will go better. – a letter to a Viatorian

As for bodily sickness, we have an excellent motive for tranquility. It is, after having used all the human means placed at our disposition, to leave everything up to God and to accept peacefully either healing or suffering, knowing well from whom both come – a letter to a Viatorian

3. A desire to serve the local church. He sent Viatorians out to help priests and bishops in France, Canada and the United States.

4. Devotion to Eucharist – “Servants of the Holy Altar” – Viatorians were to assist local priests. Fr. Querbes wrote liturgical music. He encouraged frequent reception of Communion and visits to the Blessed Sacrament. He also had a Vatican II sense of the real presence of Christ in the faithful - "When you enter the classroom, as soon as you catch sight of the church bell tower, kneel and adore the God whose servant you are in His temple of stone and in the living temples of the students before you."

5. Strong individual prayer lives, connected to Holy Scripture. Viatorians were sent out in ones and twos. They needed to have strong individual prayer lives. Religious orders of the day generally required men to live in larger communities, partly to support their prayer lives. Fr. Querbes incorporated reflection on scripture into the daily prayer life of a Viatorian, which was not common in those days.