

The Virtue of Docility

Are there times when you do not feel the presence of the Holy Spirit in your life? Perhaps it could be that your internal disposition is not as welcoming to the Holy Spirit as it should be. There are three important dispositions that welcome the Holy Spirit: humility, docility and obedience. It has been said that the Holy Spirit rushes to a humble heart: “God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble.” (James 4:6) Some people think that being docile, like being obedient, are signs of weakness. But docility and obedience are virtues. Docility makes a person willing to be taught or guided, while obedience makes a person comply with the requests or directives of someone in authority. Docility requires a humble openness to learn from others, and a willingness to make use of the knowledge, wisdom and experience of others. St. Thomas Aquinas points out that even the most learned people need to be docile, since every man has a great need to learn from others. It is easy for people to be docile when they find themselves in desperate situations. For example, if one is lost in a foreign city, it becomes easy for that person to be docile to people who live there, willing to take whatever direction he can get. The great problem with docility, however, is that people are often unaware of their own desperation; i.e., they do not realize that they are lost. A person who is lost and at the same time indocile, remains lost.



Two of the most common obstacles to the virtue of docility are laziness and pride. A lazy person simply will not make the effort to learn and to seek guidance. On the other hand, a proud person often has contempt for those who know things that he does not know, he also refuses to allow others to “impose” their ideas on him.

Another not too obvious obstacle to docility is having what is called “an eternally open mind.” The problem with having “an eternally open mind” is that the mind becomes a space where

information simply passes through – what comes in goes out, nothing is retained. G. K. Chesterton once said, “Merely having an open mind is nothing. The object of opening the mind, as of opening the mouth, is to shut it again on something solid.” On the other hand, scrupulosity becomes a great obstacle when nothing other people say seem to be good enough. It is like a person who waits for the perfect husband or wife, never meeting anyone good enough. Therefore, in addition to having a humble heart, docility also requires a person to be realistic.

To whom should Christians be docile to? Christians should be docile to the guidance of the Holy Spirit, and to the teachings of Christ and the teaching authority of the Catholic Church. You and I may have knowledge about Christ; we love and appreciate Him for His love for us, but without the guidance and inspirations of the Holy Spirit, it becomes impossible to consistently live out our faith.

In the Gospels, St. Peter has been portrayed as bold, passionate, stubborn and occasionally rash. However, although Peter had just met Jesus at the time, Peter showed docility and obedience as he lowered down his nets again at Jesus’ command. What followed next was a miracle which began his incredible journey in faith. According to St. Paul, those who are docile to the Holy Spirit bear the fruits of the Spirit, which are love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. (Gal. 5:22–23)

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每周公告 Weekly Bulletin

2025年二月九日 February 9, 2025

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Attention children and parents: We will have Sunday School today. Parents are welcome to sit in the Sunday School classes.

We will be replacing the carpet in the Sanctuary. The workers will be in the church for three days from Monday to Wednesday, 2/10-12. After Mass on Sunday, 2/9, we need volunteers to help move the pews in the Sanctuary into the Social Hall. Before Mass, we invite everyone to write the things of the past year that you want to leave behind and drop it in the basin of water before the altar. Then write your spiritual offering to the Lord for the new year on red envelopes and drop it in the basket. The basket will be brought up during the Offertory.

The 2024 contribution statements are now available. If you have not yet received your contribution statement, please contact a member of the Finance Council.

Reserve the date: Due to the cancellation of the Eucharistic Congress of the Archdiocese of Atlanta this year, Holy Name of Jesus Chinese Catholic Church will hold a week-long Eucharistic Renewal event from June 18 to June 24, 2025. Our invited guests include Most Reverend John Lee Juo-wang, Bishop Emeritus of the diocese of Tainan, Taiwan and Fr. Francis Ching of the Companions of the Cross based in Toronto, Canada, as well as a Chinese band led by Mr. Jianren Zhu from Los Angeles. Come, participate and make the most of that week with our special guests. They are coming to Atlanta especially for you, in order to inspire and deepen your devotion to the Eucharist!



Attention all volunteers for “Helping Mamas,” the volunteer date has been rescheduled to March 8, 2025.

Prayer List: Liu Guifang, Lydia Chen, Lu Shumi, David Wang, Chen Jianxin, Liang Chenjing, Pan Bohao and Xu Taicheng.

Mass Schedule	Confessions	Bible Study
Sundays 10:30 AM (Chinese)	Sundays 9:00-9:30 AM	Wednesdays 10:00 AM (Chinese)
Sundays 2:00 PM (English)	Tuesdays 2:00-3:00 PM	Mondays 6:00 PM (English)
	By Appointment	
Mondays 12:00 PM (English)		Eucharistic Adoration
Tuesdays 12:00 PM (English)	Anointing of the Sick	Sundays 9:30 AM to 12:00 PM
Wednesdays 12:00 PM (Chinese)	First Sundays after 10:30 AM Mass	Tuesdays 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM
Fridays 12:00 PM (English)		
First Friday 7:00 PM (English)		
First Saturday 10:00 AM (Chinese)		