

THE DYNAMIC ELEMENTS OF THE SPIRITUALITY OF THE CHRISTIAN EDUCATOR

INTERIOR DYNAMICS

ESSENTIAL:

● **The spirit of Faith.**

It is manifested by that trust in Divine Providence which impels him to consider all things with reference to God. He is aware that God is present everywhere (Divine Presence) and he knows that all that happens in this life bears the seal of God's action (Divine Providence).

● **Hope in God,**

because He has promised to help those who place their trust in His Divine action. Thus, there is no such thing as "failure" for those who trust in God. He knows everything that happens and often leaves the real results hidden while He mysteriously preserves the seeds which have been sown in view of the eventual fulfillment of His designs which do not always coincide with the plans of men.

● **An ardent zeal for the sons of God,**

which is the manner in which true charity is incarnated. The love of God in the Christian educator is manifested through his expressions of love for others, especially for those whom Providence has confided to him through his professional work.

COMPLEMENTARY:

● **The prayer of the Christian educator** which consists in asking that his work to promote human and spiritual values be efficacious and that his trust in God move hearts to truly spiritual results.

● **A generous spirit of self-sacrifice** which leads him to place no measure on his commitment or his efforts, in the firm conviction that God is at work among men and that He relates spiritual results with the sacrifices of those He sends.

● **Sufficient humility** to recognize that there are limits to what he can do and that he needs the unseen action of Christ Who, in fact, is invisibly present in our midst.

● **Disinterested and unflagging courage**, which is called fortitude in those who work within the freedom of men and their constant potential for resistance to grace and to the opportunities which are offered to them,

● **A clear witness**, which brings the educator to speak more through what he is than with eloquent words, giving voice to his virtues, incarnating the Gospel and being the living radiation of Christ Himself.

● **Union with the Church**, since the educator is aware that he is sent by the Church in the name of Jesus Himself to carry out His missionary mandate to teach the Kingdom of God to all nations.

● **Incarnation in his milieu**, striving to avoid utopias and unrealistic projects, working to re-produce the mysterious reality of the Incarnation of Christ by his burning desire to be present to men.

● **Respect for man** whose dignity he contemplates as a desired ideal in each of his students, even in those in whom the image of God seems hidden by intellectual, social and especially moral limitations.

● **Unshakeable perseverance** composed of fortitude, prudence, order, moderation and professional responsibility, which preserves him from vanity and discouragement and which keeps the flame of his idealism burning brightly.

● **Expecting no spectacular results**, which is a form of necessary penance for educators, because it is not possible to have worthwhile results if these are only apparent; nor that hearts be profoundly converted to God when they are limited to exterior efforts even when they are designed to help the mind, the conscience or the will to consider the true and the good.

EXTERIOR DYNAMICS

The Christian educator uses his work in education as the basis of his own plan for holiness. He makes no difference between his tending toward holiness and his professional work, because he is convinced that God acts through our daily undertakings.

- For it a duty in conscience to be **professionally prepared**, generally and specifically, because he realizes that he must offer **excellent teaching and education** in order to have an evangelical influence on hearts and minds.
- He easily goes beyond the demands of ordinary **human culture** (literary, scientific, social and academic) and uses everything at his disposal, beginning with **information** in order to achieve the **formation** of free individuals, which is, after all, his principal professional objective.
- He speaks about God with simplicity and persuasion, making himself a **catechist and evangelizer**, convinced that in order to do this he must have God in his own heart.
- He **frequently celebrates his faith** with the believing community to which he belongs. He also does all he can to bring his disciples to an awareness of the sacramental dimension of Christianity. He himself focuses his spirituality on the Sacraments so that those around him will participate in these signs of grace.
- He is always **striving to improve**, because his inner richness redounds to the spiritual betterment of his students who imperceptibly weigh his convictions, attitudes and feelings as a committed believer.
- He **acts with the community**, even in developing his personal devotions, because he knows he is a member of a Church which expresses faith together. For this reason, his prayers, his practices of piety and his traditions have an apostolic radiation because he is aware of his educational influence.
- He always gives the impression of a **happy, dynamic and captivating** believer through the responsibility he has accepted, through the truly exciting prospect of the Gospel he teaches, and his confidence in the Divine Presence which brings peace, joy in the Spirit and happiness as far as these are possible in this life.

The spirituality of the Christian educator is out-going.

It never closes in upon itself. It is always open to providing excellent educational service to all who come into contact with his person, his life, his thought and his witness. Through his experience, he knows that one educates more **by what one is than by what one says**. The same thing happens in the order of faith. He communicates more spiritual life through what he personally and genuinely lives than by all the good advice and abstract presentations which he learnedly expounds.

The Christian educator is not afraid to use his personal program for holiness as possible orientations for the sanctification of others. This is merely the logical consequence of his **Baptismal awareness** and more especially of the marvellous profession with which God has favored him. As a response to this Divine predilection, he places his own spiritual attainments at the service of the sons of God who pass so close to him on their way through life.

Brother Pedro Chico