



“Make Every Effort to Supplement Your Faith With Virtue”

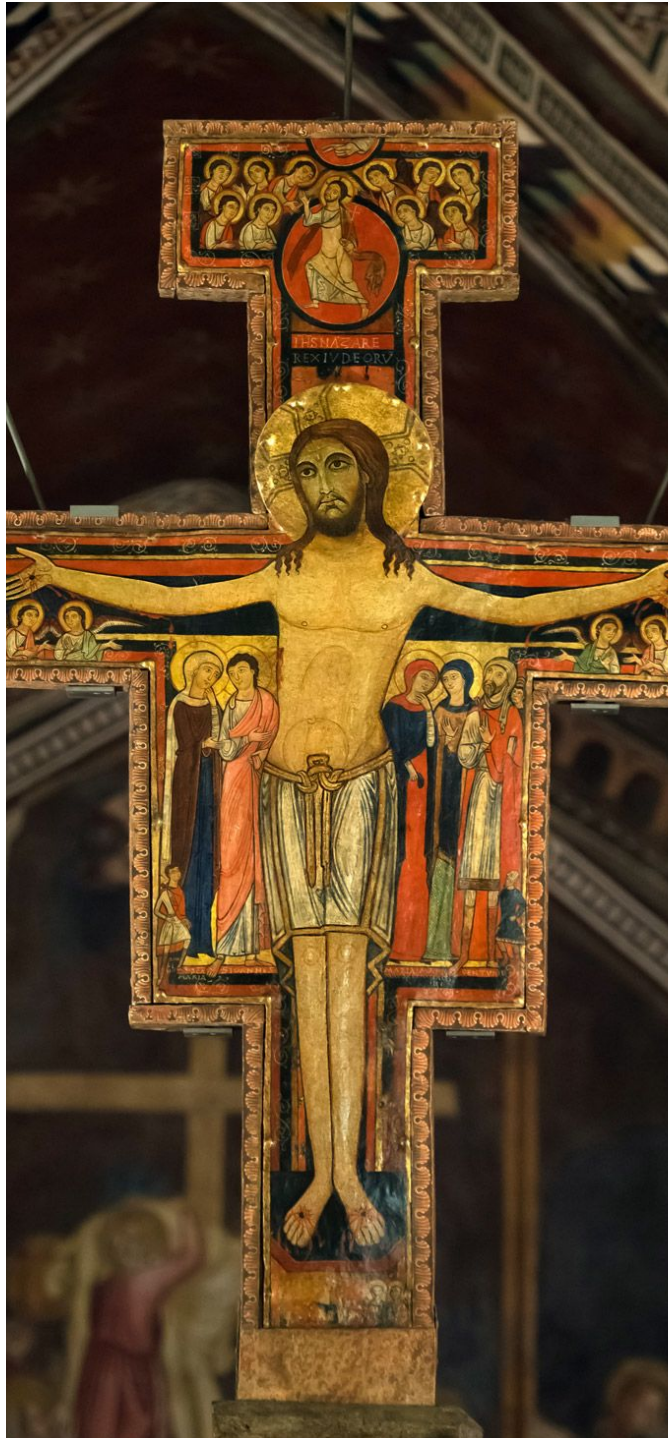
The Virtues as the Seed and Fruit of Continuous Christian Renewal

Fr. Roger J. Landry • 11th Annual Napa Institute Conference • July 22, 2021



Jesus' Rebuilding Project

- “Behold, I make all things new”
- Jesus, like St. Joseph, was a *tekton*, a builder.
- In Nazareth, he was doing far more than making yokes, tables, benches, wheels and houses. He was rebuilding the human race.
- He never ceases to renew and renovate the Church he has built.



The Divine Renovation Plan

- “Francis, rebuild my house that you can see is falling into ruins”
- “Come to [Christ], a living stone, rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God’s sight, and like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ” (1 Pet 2:4)
- The Church is built not of marble, wood, bricks and glass but men, women, boys and girls, living, breathing, believing stones whose life is built on Christ.



Images of the Rebuilding Plan

- St. Peter's Basilica and Square as the icon of the rebuilding of the Church.
- The saints are the pillars on which Christ continuously renews his Church.
- The virtues are the means the means by which the saints become holy.
- The virtues lift us up to seek the things that are above.





The Virtues & Human Life

- The virtues by which the Popes are remembered are found on their tombs and monuments throughout the Basilica.
- What are the virtues by which you hope to be remembered?



Renewal Through Virtue

- “Make Every Effort To Supplement Your Faith With Virtue.”
- The most fitting initial remedy to what’s wrong with the world.
- Remembering Jesus’ lessons of the Plank and Speck and the Mustard Seed.
- The change from “virtues” to “values”
- “The goal of the virtuous life is to become like God” (CCC 1803)



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Virtues Needed Today

- The “theological virtues” of faith, hope and charity.
- The “cardinal virtues” of courage, prudence, justice and temperance.
- The “capital virtues” of humility (against pride) , generosity (greed), fraternal love (envy), chastity (lust), temperance (gluttony), meekness (anger) and diligence (sloth)



Growing in Virtue

- “Human virtues acquired by education, by deliberate acts and by a perseverance ever-renewed in repeated efforts are purified and elevated by divine grace” (CCC 1810)
- We can focus on
 - Education
 - Training
 - Supernatural Means



Virtue is Ever New and Renewing

- Pope Benedict XVI at the White House in 2008:
 - “The preservation of freedom calls for the cultivation of virtue”
 - “It demands the courage to ... bring one’s deepest beliefs and values to reasoned public debate.”
 - “In a word, freedom is ever new.”
 - “It is a challenge held out to each generation, and it must constantly be won over for the cause of good.”
- That perennial challenge to freedom is also a constant one for virtue as well.



Thank you!