

Piety

In Catholic Scripture, piety (or godliness/devotion) is a divine gift from the Holy Spirit, rooted in Isaiah 11:2-3, signifying a deep, filial love and reverence for God as a Father, extending to duties for family, country, and others, and manifesting in prayer, worship (like the Rosary, Mass), and good works, as seen in St. Paul's letters (like 1 & 2 Timothy) and the call for faithfulness in James.

- [Isaiah 11:2-3](#): And the Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. And his delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear.
- [Acts 10:2](#): Mentions Cornelius as a devout (pious) man, showing piety in action through prayer and almsgiving. "a devout man who feared God with all his household, gave alms liberally to the people, and prayed constantly to God."
- [Colossians 1:10-14](#): Describes walking worthy of the Lord, bearing fruit, and increasing in knowledge as aspects of a pious life.

Piety and pious devotions are about the conversion of our hearts to God, so that through reverence our hearts can remain open to His love. More specifically, piety is a gift that gives a direction to our Christian lives. It is not about arm twisting God to get Him to give us the things our hearts covet.

I hope the spirit of Mary, the one who sat at the feet of our Lord, helps us and the whole Church to remember an important truth about charity. A pious heart helps the soul to maintain an attitude of Mary while willing to serve His needs as Martha. A pious heart can see the splendor of the Lord in any act of charity done in the name of the Lord. In seeing that splendor, sin loses its luster, making it possible for the life of charity to become second nature to the soul.

Pope Francis taught, "Piety, therefore, is synonymous of authentic religious spirit, filial confidence in God, of the capacity to pray to Him with love and simplicity which is proper of persons who are humble of heart. The gift of piety makes us grow in our relation and communion with God and leads us to live as His children; at the same time it helps us to pour this love also on others and to recognize them as brothers."

Piety simply means we give to God what he deserves from us: love, time, prayer, worship and we respect the things and people of God . It means we pray to God because he is our loving Father and we want to spend time with him. We turn to him throughout the day and pray with deep intense faith that he is listening. Even though piety is a gift of the Holy Spirit, we have to practice it every single day by making time for prayer.

Mother Teresa once said, *"If you face God in prayer and silence, God will speak to you. Listen in silence because if your heart is full of other things you cannot hear the voice of God. What is essential is not what we say but what God tells us."*