

***Twenty-Fifth Sunday of Ordinary Time
Fifteenth Sunday After Pentecost (Latin Mass)
September 21, 2025
Year of the Holy Spirit***

*“Bow down Thy ear, O Lord, to me, and hear me: save Thy servant, O my God, that trusteth in Thee: have mercy on me, O Lord, for I have cried to Thee all day. Give joy to the soul of Thy servant; for to Thee, O Lord, have I lifted up my soul.”
(Psalm 85 – Introit for Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost)*

In his great spiritual work, Self-Abandonment to Divine Providence, Father J.P. de Caussade, S.J. wrote one sentence which we may reflect upon today. *“God reveals himself to the humble in the humblest things, while the great who never penetrate beneath the surface do not discover him even in great events.”*

I think this sentence is important to reflect upon due to what we have witnessed unfold over these past few weeks. Each day it seems another act of violence is presented to us. Whether it is nation against nation or man against man, our television and computer screens open for us this world of cruelty and injustice. More and more Christian leaders speak of “End Times” prophecy. As we have reflected prior, yet it bears repeating, we must be willing to turn off this needless dribble if we desire to hear the whispered sound of God’s voice. Our Christian faith provides us many helps and needed graces to accomplish this task of listening. One of the most helpful of these consists in our faithfulness in His Word which leads to a growth in holiness.

Father de Caussade wrote: *“In reality holiness consists in one thing alone, namely, fidelity to God’s plan. And this fidelity is equally within everyone’s capacity in both its active and passive practice.”* (p. 5) Although we may not have considered holiness to be joined to fidelity (faithfulness), it is very much seen throughout Sacred Scripture. One of the first great figures to display holiness is Abraham who obeys God when asked to perform the tasks of moving to a foreign land and sacrificing your only son. As pointed out, fidelity consists in both an active and passive movement of the individual’s will. An active practice of fidelity (faithfulness) would be understood as obeying the general duties imposed upon a Christian by both God and the Church. I choose to obey His Commandments while also choosing to obey the Church’s teaching concerning moral issues. Our choice to obey affects the way we live in whatever situation or situations our lives may find themselves. Passive fidelity is simply our purposeful decision to accept with love all things as coming from God. We choose to be a loving Christian in season and out of season. What happens around us, good or bad, is accepted. Why? Because many things are unavoidable.

I know what I have presented may appear “too simple,” but ask yourself a question: When you are thirsty, do you search out a book or video which explains your thirst or do you get up and go get a drink? Holiness is just that simple. We must daily choose to obey God. We may, never in this life, understand why a thing has happened, but just because I do not know the answer does not mean God is not present nor in control.