

Transcription Note for Sermons

Sermon 44 comprises three individual sermons we have des

Although unrelated, Sermons 28 and 44b share similar conc
regarding the celebration of the Jubilee year.

JAMES ARCHER SERMONS [44a, b, and c]

Untitled

[Three short discourses concerning candidates for a religious profession.]

[Sermon 44c]

Your petition D^r [Dear] Candidate is truly praiseworthy

Sensible of the mercy and goodness of your God in having discovered to you the errors in which you were engaged and conducted you into the path of salvation by imparting to you the inestimable gift of Faith, you are desirous of testifying your gratitude to your Divine Benefactor by the amendment of your Life. As the most effectual means of accomplishing this your pious desire he has inspired you to renounce the World with all its vanities and delusive pleasures [ME var.; pleasures] and to embrace a life of penance and mortification in the religious State. This is a state of perfection in which you are to endeavour to grow daily in virtue and therefore must begin by laying a solid foundation of a sincere humility: for this virtue is the Basis of Sanctity, the first step to perfection, the mistress and mother of all virtues. ~~Without this, the greatest austerities and the most heroic actions~~

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~~you can perform are a mere nothing in the sight of God.~~ You are not only to begin the edifice of perfection by this virtue but it must as S^t Austin says accompany and follow all the good you do; for the moment pride enters, it destroys all other merit and spoils all our actions, be they ever so holy in themselves[.]

This heavenly Virtue draws down into our souls the harmonious train of all moral and Divine virtues, *Confiteor tibi Pater Caeli et terræ* says our B. [Blessed] Saviour *quia abscondisti hæc a sapientibus et prudentibus et revelasti ea parvulis*, I give thee Thanks Father of Heaven and Earth, because thou hast hidden all thy treasures of grace and virtue from the wise and prudent of the world and hast only revealed and granted them to little ones.—^[1] Our Divine Redeemer was pleased from the moment of his Incarnation till his expiration on the Cross to send us an example of this virtue ~~and~~ [word stricken] have it then D^r Candidate always before your eyes for as he tells you

[¹ Archer's rather loose English translation varies from his Latin phrasing. A closer translation would be: "I confess/grant to thee, Father of Heaven and earth, because thou hast hidden these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them to little ones/children." See Luke 10:21 (LV/DRB).]

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to learn it of him. Be willing to be despised and contemned and to suffer any Crosses and contradictions his holy providence may be pleased to send you after his example for the servant and Spouse of a Crucified Lord must not pretend to find out an easier way to Heaven, than by treading in the painful footsteps of ~~a suffering~~ her Redeemer.

In order to more effectually attain to ~~the effort~~ the end of your petition you must moreover consider the holy state into which you are about to enter as a School of perfection. Look upon your Superiors as ~~the your spiritual~~ the Mistress of a spiritual life who will instruct you in the Mysteries of the Cross, how to die not only to the World but also to yourself, that you may live to God alone. Obey them therefore faithfully, readily and chearfully [ME var.; cheerfully] regarding their voice as the voice of God and not only in things that are easy & agreeable to you but also in those which

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to nature may appear difficult and almost insurmountable and be assured that by the grace which God will bestow upon you[,] will find verified in you, regard those words of our B. [Blessed] Saviour my yoke is sweet and my burthen is light.

Begin then from this day, valiantly to take up the Cross of selfdenial and mortification and with immoveable constancy follow the footsteps of your suffering Lord in the narrow paths of Evangelical Perfection, which he was pleased to teach our seraphical Founder, and which have conducted Thousands of Virgins your predecessors to never ending felicity. Imitate them in contemning the World, in abandoning all earthly things in sacrificing your own Will, thus you shall find perfect tranquility in this Life and eternal happiness in the next. which I sincerely wish you[.] In the Name &c [etc.]