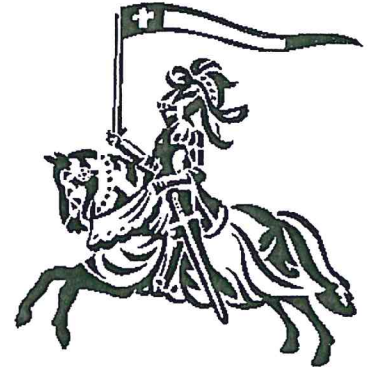


## HELPFUL HINTS FOR ATTACKING AVARICE

Christian tradition ranks avarice second only to pride. St. Paul likewise tells us that “The love of money is the root of all evil” (1 Tm 6:10). Avarice takes the focus and the honor and glory from the Father and puts it on money, possessions, power, etc.



*To help me resist avarice, I can. . .*

*-Embrace spiritual poverty by:*

- \*keeping my eyes focused on Jesus;
- \*preferring Jesus to everything and everyone;
- \*trusting and believing that God will take care of me and provide for all my needs;
- \*being content to have God as my support;
- \*meditating on the poverty of Our Lord and the Blessed Mother;
- \*using only that which is necessary in my daily life and not setting my heart on any thing;
- \*choosing to keep my desire and love of things in check;
- \*asking myself and God often throughout the day what I can do to embrace spiritual poverty more fully;
- \*choosing to be joyful in doing without or with less than I want or need; and
- \*praying for the gift of spiritual poverty and the grace to embrace it wholeheartedly.

*-Progress in my spiritual journey by:*

- \*realizing that my only wealth is Jesus, not even my own good deeds;
- \*seeking first His kingship, His way of holiness.
- \*embracing the Cross with both hands.
- \*trusting God as He takes me deeper into transforming union, which is my goal in life.
- \*being generous in giving my whole life to God, realizing that my life is not my own.
- \*being generous in allowing the battle for souls to rage within me and my family, for it no longer is my life but Jesus living in me.
- \*nurturing a deep attitude of trust in God that is not based on what He can give to me.
- \*cooperating with the purification process in my life, trusting that God will do all that is necessary to purify me.
- \*only needing to know what God thinks is necessary for me to know.
- \*receiving pleasure in living for the love of God, not for the love of material possessions, power, praise, et cetera;
- \*working towards interior perfection and pleasing God, not myself;
- \*guarding my heart and its passions, training myself to love only the Lord;
- \*frequenting the Sacrament of Reconciliation and confessing any areas of sin or attachment;
- \*keeping the spirit of the law regarding the vow of poverty, not just the letter of the law; and
- \*being aware of the times when I feel greedy that I am no longer praising the Creator but worshipping the created good. I can resolve to restore a right order.

*-Embrace generosity by:*

- \*choosing to generously and willingly give all I have to God;
- \*deciding to give away a portion of my possessions and generously surrendering my earthly goods to God's service;

- \*shunning the things, words, and thoughts that lead me into the sin of avarice; and
- \*praying for a spirit of generosity.

*-Be a good steward by:*

- \*using God's resources with respect and care; and
- \*practicing stewardship and choosing to tithe with my time, talent, and treasure, without expecting anything in return.

*-Embrace faith by:*

- \*constantly asking for this gift to believe at a deeper level;
- \*being aware of each time I act or think in a way that shows that I am afraid and do not trust God, and then bringing this to prayer; and
- \*pondering Jesus' words, "I am with you always" (Mt 28:20), especially when I am afraid.

*To help me resist spiritual avarice, I can. . .*

*-Practice detachment by:*

- \*Sharing my spiritual insights, devotions, and possessions with others;
- \*Being open to other's spirituality and spiritual journey and not insisting that my journey is the only way;
- \*Pondering whether my attachment to religious practices, devotions, and possessions is due to difficulty depending on God alone;
- \*Identifying my areas of attachment and developing a plan to let go of them in order to embrace the Lord more fully.
- \*First spending time developing an intimate friendship with the Lord each day before I say any rote prayers or devotions;
- \*Memorizing Bible verses such as, "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, on your own intelligence rely not" (Prv 3:5) that will help me to be dependent on God alone and recalling them whenever my independence arises;
- \*Choosing to be happy whether in consolation or desolation;
- \*Meditating on the poverty of Jesus, His freedom, and His total detachment.
- \*Not "running" from spiritual poverty and mortification; and
- \*Often pondering God's tremendous mercy and love for me.

We live in the world, and our challenge is to be in the world but not of it. We are challenged to not let things possess us. Greed will take us away from depending on God, and it will cloud our relationship with Him. We need to trust that God will do everything necessary to purify us and learn to accept what He puts in our lives each day.