

## **Abandonment to Divine Providence (First Part)**

During these difficult times, when everyone is faced with the fragility of life in the presence of an apparently incurable virus, instead of wasting our time with alarming news we should actually turn to God Our Father himself by spending more quality time in prayer, asking Him to increase within us the gift of trust in his Divine Providence, which is the conviction that He is Omniscient (He knows absolutely everything) and therefore He knows exactly what we truly need. He is also Omnipotent (All powerful), therefore He can do all things for us and He is willing and ready to bless us with the gifts that are truly necessary for our eternal salvation. Fr. Pierre De Caussade, a holy Jesuit priest from the eighteenth century wrote a treatise called ‘Abandonment to Divine Providence.’ At this time, I would like to share some excerpts from this book to encourage us all to embrace greater trust in God Our Heavenly Father, especially in his Divine Providence.

***There is no solid peace except in submission to the divine action.***

‘The soul that does not attach itself solely to the will of God will find neither satisfaction nor sanctification in any other means however excellent by which it may attempt to gain them. If that which God Himself chooses for you does not content you, from whom do you expect to obtain what you desire? If you are disgusted with the meat prepared for you by the divine will itself, what food would not be insipid to so depraved a taste? No soul can be really nourished, fortified, purified, enriched, and sanctified except in fulfilling the duties of the present moment. What more would you have? As in this you can find all good, why seek it elsewhere? Do you know better than God? As he ordains it thus why do you desire it differently? Can His wisdom and goodness be deceived?’

‘When you find something to be in accordance with this divine wisdom and goodness ought you not to conclude that it must needs be excellent? Do you imagine you will find peace in resisting the Almighty? Is it not, on the contrary, this resistance which we too often continue without owning it even to ourselves which is the cause of all our troubles? It is only just, therefore, that the soul that is dissatisfied with the divine action for each present moment should be punished by being unable to find happiness in anything else. If books, the example of the saints, and spiritual conversations deprive the soul of peace; if they fill the mind without satisfying it; it is a sign that one has strayed from the path of pure abandonment to the divine

action, and that one is only seeking to please oneself. To be employed in this way is to prevent God from finding an entrance. All this must be got rid of because of being an obstacle to grace. But if the divine will ordains the use of these things the soul may receive them like the rest—that is to say—as the means ordained by God which it accepts simply to use, and leaves afterwards when their moment has passed for the duties of the moment that follows. There is, in fact, nothing really good that does not emanate from the ordinance of God, and nothing, however good in itself, can be better adapted for the sanctification of the soul and the attainment of peace.’

(De Caussade, *Abandonment to Divine Providence*. Section VII.—On the Attainment of Peace)