

Book Reviews & Recommended Reading

***The Glories of Divine Grace.* By Fr. Matthias J. Scheeben**

The Glories of Divine Grace will undoubtedly become one of the two or three most influential Catholic books that a person will ever read. For, as the subtitle indicates, it is a *Fervent Exhortation to All to Preserve and to Grow in Sanctifying Grace*. Catholic catechisms all teach that with Baptism we become children of God and heirs of Heaven; that we receive thereby Sanctifying Grace and thus have a share in the life of God Himself. However, after learning this, most Catholics think little more about the nature of Sanctifying Grace, what it means and what it does for us. And that is why Fr. Matthias Scheeben, a renowned German theologian of the 19th century, wrote this famous book.

Far from being an abstract treatise, *The Glories of Divine Grace* is an impassioned appeal to us all to understand the nature of Sanctifying Grace, to preserve this incredible gift from God, and to grow in it each day for the rest of our lives. Written in a popular, direct style, this book explains how grace works, what are its effects, how to grow in grace, and the union with God that it allows us to achieve. At the same time, the book also enkindles in readers a profound realization about the importance and greatness of Sanctifying Grace and what it really means—or should mean—to us all. For Sanctifying Grace is nothing other than “the life of God Himself,” which He shares with us and by which, in a certain sense, He raises us to His level.

When we part from this world, we shall leave behind everything we possess, save one: Sanctifying Grace (if we have preserved it!). The author’s underlying theme, therefore, is simply this: It behooves us all to safeguard Sanctifying Grace in our souls at all times and to work consciously and daily at growing in it throughout our lives—that thereby our eternity in Heaven will be attained and we shall spend that eternity with God in a far greater degree of happiness than we might otherwise have had if we had not been aware of *The Glories of Divine Grace*.

This book is available from Neri Publications (see facing page)

From the Maxims of St. Philip Neri



In sickness we ought to ask God to give us patience, because it often happens, that when a man gets well, he not only does not do the good he proposed to do when he was sick, but he multiplies his sins and his ingratitude.

Penitents should never make vows without the advice of their spiritual fathers.

If we do make such vows, it is best to make them conditionally: for example, “I make a vow to have two Masses said on St. Lucy’s day, with this bargain, *‘If I can, if I do not forget it, because if I do not remember it I do not wish to be bound.’*”