

“Interventions”



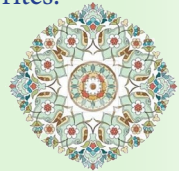
One Who is Truly Spiritually Wise (b)

It is imperative to cultivate love for our fellow human beings, regardless of whether they hate us, harm us, are obnoxious, make our lives difficult, or, in a word, “annoy” us in one way or another and treat us with hostility.

As Christians, we must immediately repel any negative thoughts, emotions, words, and actions that arise within us and prompt us to engage in insulting or disparaging behavior towards our fellow brothers and sisters. This effort to make room in our heart and forgive our neighbor is accomplished by the Grace of God and leads us to sanctity. Here is an astonishing example!

Martin Niemöller was a German pastor who, having denounced the anti-Christian principles of Nazism, was imprisoned in the notorious Dachau concentration camp until the end of the Second World War. He writes:

“In the last year of my imprisonment at Dachau, a gallows was transferred from the general camp into the courtyard of the ‘bunker,’ the prison inside the camp. And the upper part of this gallows looked into my solitary-confinement cell, through the window bars.



“How often this gallows induced me to pray for my comrades who were hanged on it, and **how often every day I had to control myself, when the idea arose: If these people will pull me out of my place here to that gallows, I shall shout at them, ‘You criminals, you murderers, wait and see—there is a God in heaven and He will show you!’**

“And then the torturing question: What would have happened if Jesus, when they nailed Him to His gallows, to the Cross, had spoken like this and had cursed His enemies? Nothing would have happened, only there would be no Gospel, no Christian Church, for there would be no message of great joy; for then He would have prayed against His enemies, not for them, and would have died against them and not for them. Thank God! He prayed, He died a different way: ‘Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do!’”

Presented by

† *Metropolitan Cyprian of Oropos and Phyle*

September 1, 2024 (Old Style)

† Beginning of the New Ecclesiastical Year