ADMONITIONS

1. The Body of Christ

Part I
1 The Lord Jesus says to his disciples: *I am the way, the truth and the life; no one comes to the Father except through me.* 2 *If you knew me, you would also know my Father; and from now on, you do know Him and have seen Him.* 3 Philip says to him, *Lord, show us the Father and it will be enough for us.* 4 Jesus says to him, *Have I been with you for so long a time and you have not known me?* Philip, whoever sees me sees my Father as well.

5 The Father dwells in *inaccessible light* (1 Tm 6:16), and *God is Spirit* (Jn 4:24), and *no one has ever seen God* (Jn 1:18). 6 Therefore, He cannot be seen except in the Spirit, because *it is the Spirit that gives life; the flesh has nothing to offer* (Jn 6:63). 7 But, because He is equal to the Father, the Son is not seen by anyone other than the Father or other than the Holy Spirit.

Part II
8 All those who saw the Lord Jesus according to the humanity, therefore, and did not see and believe according to the Spirit and the Divinity that He is the true Son of God were condemned. 9 Now in the same way, all who see the sacrament sanctified by the words of the Lord upon the altar at the hands of the priest in the form of bread and wine, and who do not see and believe according to the Spirit and the Divinity that it is truly the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, are condemned. 10 [This] is affirmed by the Most High Himself Who says, *This is my Body and the Blood of my new covenant [which will be shed for many]* (Mk 14:22, 24); 11 *and Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life* (Jn 6:55). 12 It is the Spirit of the Lord, therefore, That lives in Its faithful, That receives the Body and Blood of the Lord. 13 All others who do not share in this same Spirit and presume to receive Him eat and drink *judgment on themselves* (1 Cor 11:29).
Part III

Therefore: children, how long will you be hard of heart (Ps 4:3)? Why do you not know the truth and believe in the Son of God (Jn 9:35)? Behold, each day He humbles Himself as when He came from the royal throne (Phil 2:8) into the Virgin’s womb; each day He Himself comes to us, appearing humbly; each day He comes down from the bosom of the Father (Jn 1:18) upon the altar in the hands of a priest.

As He revealed Himself to the holy apostles in true flesh, so He reveals Himself to us now in sacred bread. And as they saw only His flesh by an insight of their flesh, yet believed that He was God as they contemplated Him with their spiritual eyes, let us, as we see bread and wine with our bodily eyes, see and firmly believe that they are His most holy Body and Blood living and true. And in this way the Lord is always with His faithful, as He Himself says: Behold I am with you until the end of the age (Mt 28:20).

2. The Evil of Self-Will

The Lord said to Adam: Eat of every tree; you may not eat, however, of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil (Mt 28:20).

He was able to eat of every tree of paradise, because he did not sin as long as he did not go against obedience. For that person eats of the tree of the knowledge of good who makes his will his own and, in this way, exalts himself over the good things the Lord says and does in him. And so, through the suggestion of the devil and the transgression of the command, it became the apple of the knowledge of evil. Therefore, it is right that he should sustain punishment.
3. Perfect Obedience

The Lord says in the Gospel: *Whoever does not renounce all that he possesses, cannot be my disciple* (Lk 14:33); and: *Whoever wishes to save his soul must lose it* (Lk 9:24).

That person who offers himself totally to obedience in the hands of his prelate leaves all that he possesses and loses his body. And whatever he does and says which he knows is not contrary to his will is true obedience, provided that what he does is good.

And should a subject see that some things might be better and more useful for his soul than what a prelate commands, let him willingly offer such things to God as a sacrifice; and, instead, let him earnestly strive to fulfill the prelate’s wishes. For this is loving obedience because it pleases God and neighbor.

If the prelate, however, commands something contrary to his conscience, even though he may not obey him, let him not, however, abandon him. And if he then suffers persecution from others, let him love them all the more for the sake of God. For whoever chooses to suffer persecution rather than wish to be separated from his brothers truly remains in perfect obedience because he lays down his life for his brothers.

In fact, there are many religious who, under the pretext of seeing things better than those which the prelate commands, look back, and return to the vomit of their own will. These people are murderers and, because of their bad example, cause many to lose their souls.

4. Let No One Make Being Over Others His Own

*I did not come to be served, but to serve* (Mt 20:28), says the Lord.

Let those who are placed over others boast about that position as much as they would if they were assigned the duty of washing the feet of their brothers. And if they are more upset at having their place over others taken away from them than at losing their position at their feet, the more they store up a money bag (Jn 12:6) to the peril of their soul.
5. Let No One Be Proud, but Boast in the Cross of the Lord

1Consider, O human being, in what great excellence the Lord God has placed you, for He created and formed you to the image of His beloved Son according to the body and to His likeness (Gn 1:26) according to the Spirit.

2And all creatures under heaven serve, know, and obey their Creator, each according to its own nature, better than you. 3And even the demons did not crucify Him, but you, together with them, have crucified Him and are still crucifying Him by delighting in vices and sins.

4In what, then, can you boast? 5Even if you were so skillful and wise that you possessed all knowledge (1 Cor 13:2), knew how to interpret every kind of language (1 Cor 12:28), and to scrutinize heavenly matters with skill: you could not boast in these things. 6For, even though someone may have received from the Lord a special knowledge of the highest wisdom (i.e. 2 Cor 12:1-4), one demon knew about heavenly matters and now knows more about those of earth than all human beings.

7In the same way, even if you were more handsome and richer than everyone else, and even if you worked miracles so that you put demons to flight: all these things are contrary to you; nothing belongs to you; you can boast in none of these things.

8But we can boast in our weaknesses (e.g., 2 Cor 12:5-9) and in carrying each day the holy cross of our Lord Jesus Christ.

6. Imitation of Christ

1Let all of us, brothers, consider the Good Shepherd Who bore the suffering of the cross to save His sheep.

2The Lord’s sheep followed Him in tribulation and persecution, in shame and hunger, in weakness and temptation, and in other ways; and for these things they received eternal life from the Lord.

3Therefore, it is a great shame for us, the servants of God, that the saints have accomplished great things and we want only to receive glory and honor by recounting them.
7. Let Good Action Follow Knowledge

1The apostle says: The letter kills, but the Spirit gives life (2 Cor 3:6).

2Those people are put to death by the letter who only wish to know the words alone, that they might be esteemed wiser than others and be able to acquire great riches to give to their relatives and friends.

3And those religious are put to death by the letter who are not willing to follow the spirit of the divine letter but, instead, wish only to know the words and to interpret them for others.

4And those people are brought to life by the spirit of the divine letter who do not attribute every letter they know, or wish to know, to the body but, by word and example, return them to the most high Lord God to Whom every good belongs.

8. Avoiding the Sin of Envy

1The apostle says, No one can say: Jesus is Lord, except in the Holy Spirit (1 Cor 12:3); and, There is not one who does good, not even one (Rom 3:13).

2Therefore, whoever envies his brother the good that the Lord says or does in him incurs a sin of blasphemy, because he envies the Most High Himself Who says and does every good thing.

9. Love

1The Lord says, Love your enemies [do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who persecute and slander you] (Mt 5:44).

2For that person truly loves his enemy who is not hurt by an injury done to him, but, because of love of God, is stung by the sin of his soul. Let him show him love by his deeds.
10. Castigating the Body

There are many people who, when they sin or are injured, frequently blame the enemy or their neighbor. But it is not so, because each one has the enemy in his power, that is his body through which he sins.

Blessed is the servant (Mt 24:46), then, who always holds captive the enemy delivered into his power, and wisely safeguards himself from him; because, as long as he does this, no other enemy visible or invisible will be able to harm him.

11. Let No One Be Corrupted by the Evil of Another

Nothing should displease a servant of God except sin. And no matter how another person may sin, if a servant of God becomes disturbed and angry because of this and not because of charity, he is storing up guilt for himself. That servant of God who does not become angry or disturbed at anyone lives correctly without anything of his own. Blessed is the one for whom nothing remains except for him to return to Caesar what is Caesar’s and to God what is God’s (Mt 22:21).

12. Knowing the Spirit of the Lord

A servant of God can be known to have the Spirit the Lord in this way: if, when the Lord performs some good through him, his flesh does not therefore exalt itself, because it is always opposed to every good. Instead he regards himself the more worthless and esteems himself less than all others.

13. Patience

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God (Mt 5:9).

A servant of God cannot know how much patience and humility he has within himself as long as he is content. When the time comes, however, when those who should make him content do the opposite, he has as much patience and humility as he has at that time and no more.
14. Poverty of Spirit

1 Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of the heavens (Mt 5:3).

2 There are many who, while insisting on prayers and obligations, inflict many abstinences and punishments upon their bodies. 3 But they are immediately offended and disturbed about a single word which seems to be harmful to their bodies or about something which might be taken away from them. 4 These people are not poor in spirit, for someone who is truly poor in spirit hates himself (Lk 14:26) and loves those who strike him on the cheek (Lk 6:29, Mt 5:39).

15. Peace

1 Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God (Mt 5:9).

2 Those people are truly peacemakers who, regardless of what they suffer in this world, preserve peace of soul and body out of love of our Lord Jesus Christ.

16. Cleanness of Heart

1 Blessed are the clean in heart, for they will see God (Mt 5:8).

2 The truly clean of heart are those who look down upon earthly things, seek those of heaven, and, with a clean heart and spirit, never cease adoring and seeing the Lord God living and true.

17. The Humble Servant of God

1 Blessed is that servant (Mt 24:46) who no more exalts himself over the good the Lord says or does through him than over what He says or does through another.

2 A person sins who wishes to receive more from his neighbor than what he wishes to give of himself to the Lord God.
18. Compassion for a Neighbor

1Blessed the person who supports his neighbor in his weakness as he would want to be supported were he in a similar situation.

2Blessed is the servant who returns every good to the Lord God because whoever holds onto something for himself hides the money of his Lord (Mt 25:18) within himself, and what he thinks he has will be taken away from him (Lk 8:18).

19. A Humble Servant of God

1Blessed is the servant who does not consider himself any better when he is praised and exalted by people than when he is considered worthless, simple, and looked down upon, for what a person is before God, that he is and no more.

3Woe to that religious who has been placed in a high position by others and [who] does not want to come down by his own will.

4Blessed is that servant (Mt 24:46) who is not placed in a high position by his own will and always desires to be under the feet of others.

20. The Good and the Vain Religious

1Blessed is that religious who has no pleasure and delight except in the most holy words and deeds of the Lord, and, with these, leads people to the love of God with gladness and joy.

3Woe to that religious who delights himself in idle and empty words and leads people to laughter with them.
21. The Frivolous and the Talkative Religious

1 Blessed the servant who, when he speaks, does not disclose everything about himself and under the guise of a reward and is not quick to speak, but who is wisely cautious about what he says and how he responds.

2 Woe to that religious who does not hold in his heart the good things the Lord reveals to him and does not reveal them by his behavior, but, under the guise of a reward, wishes instead to reveal them with his words. 3 He receives his reward (Lk 2:19, 51, Mt 6:2, 16) and his listeners carry away little fruit.

22. Correction

1 Blessed is the servant who endures discipline, accusation, and reprimand from another as patiently as he would from himself.

2 Blessed is the servant who, after being reprimanded, agrees courteously, submits respectfully, admits humbly, and makes amends willingly.

3 Blessed is the servant who is not quick to excuse himself, and endures with humility, shame, and reprimand for a sin, when he did not commit the fault.

23. Humility

1 Blessed is the servant who has been found as humble among his subjects as he was among his masters.

2 Blessed is the servant who always remains under the rod of correction.

3 Faithful and prudent is the servant (Mt 24:45) who does not delay in punishing himself for all his offenses, inwardly through contrition and outwardly through confession and penance for what he did.
24. True Love

Blessed the servant who loves his brother as much when he is sick and cannot repay him as when he is well and can repay him.

25. The Same Point

Blessed the servant who loves and respects his brother as much when he is far away from him as when he is with him, and who would not say anything behind his back that he would not say with charity in his presence.

26. Let Servants of God Honor the Clergy

1Blessed is the servant who has faith in the clergy who live uprightly according to the rite of the Roman Church.

2Woe to those who look down upon them; for even though they be sinners, no one should judge them because the Lord alone reserves judgment on them to Himself. 3For just as their ministry is greater in its concerns for the most holy Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, which they receive and they alone administer to others, 4so those who sin against them commit more of a sin than [if they sinned] against all other persons in this world.
27. Of the Virtues putting Vices to flight

1 Where there is charity and wisdom, there is neither fear nor ignorance.

2 Where there is patience and humility, there is neither anger nor disturbance.

3 Where there is poverty with joy, there is neither greed nor avarice.

4 Where there is rest and meditation, there is neither anxiety nor restlessness.

5 Where there is fear of the Lord to guard an entrance, there the enemy cannot have a place to enter.

6 Where there is mercy and discernment, there is neither excess nor hardness of heart.

28. Hiding the Good That It Not Be Lost

1 Blessed is the servant who stores up in heaven the good things which the Lord shows to him and does not wish to reveal them to people under the guise of a reward, because the Most High Himself will reveal His deeds to whomever He wishes.

3 Blessed is the servant who safeguards the secrets of the Lord in his heart.