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SAINT PIUS X AND THE PRIESTHOOD

No words are more appropriate at this time for the newly ordained Dominican Priests of our American Provinces than those spoken by the recently canonized Pope Pius X to his clergy on the occasion of the Fiftieth Anniversary of his own Ordination to the Priesthood:

There is one quality which indisputably links man with God and makes him the pleasing and not unworthy "dispenser" of His mercy, namely, sanctity of life and morals. If this, which is but the super-eminent knowledge of Jesus Christ, be lacking in a priest, all things are lacking. For when not united with sanctity, that supply of carefully acquired learning, and that dexterity and skill in exercising it, even if they may be able to bestow some advantage either upon the Church or upon individuals, are often the lamentable cause of harm to their possessors. But how many wonderfully salutary works can he, though the humblest, attempt and accomplish for the "people of God," if he is graced and adorned by sanctity, the testimonies of every age bear witness. Sanctity alone makes us what our divine vocation demands, namely, men crucified to the world and to whom the world is crucified; men walking in the newness of life, who, as Paul tells us, show themselves to be the ministers of God "in labors, in sleepless nights, in fastings; in innocence, in knowledge, in long-sufferings; in kindness, in the Holy Spirit, in unaffected love; in the word of truth" (2 Cor. 6/5-7), who seek heavenly things alone and strive in every way to lead others to them.

(Haerent Animo, August 4, 1908)