

RECOLLECTION

THE PATH TO UNION WITH GOD

I. INTRODUCTION

II. DEFINITION AND ORIGIN OF RECOLLECTION

1. Definition:
 - a. The Roots:
 - b. Literal Meaning:

III. Philosophical Origin

1. Plato's *Meno*:
 - a. The dilemma
 - b. Plato's Metaphysical Framework
 - c. Plato's solution
2. Recollection in Catholic Spirituality Tradition
 - a. Scripture:
 - i. Hosea 2:14:
 - ii. Mark 6:31:
 - b. The Desert Fathers & The Early Church (3rd–5th Centuries)
 - i. St. Anthony of Egypt & The Desert Fathers:
 - ii. St. Augustine:
 - iii. Recollection:
 - c. The Mysticism & The Medieval Church
 - i. St. Teresa of Avila:
 - *The Way of Perfection*:
 - *The Interior Castle*:
 - ii. St. John of the Cross: two types of recollection
 - Active (or Acquired) Recollection:
 - Passive (or Infused) Recollection:
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 - d. St. Alphonsus & The Mission Church in Today's World
 - Tuân Theo Thánh Ý Chúa (tựa gốc tiếng Ý - 1755: *Uniformità alla Volontà di Dio*, tiếng Anh: *Uniformity with God's Will*)

IV. WAYS OF RECOLLECTION

St. Alphonsus Liguori teaches that the soul remains united to God through three things (SSP): solitude, silence, Presence of God

SOULITUDE

SILENCE

PRESENCE OF GOD

V. PRACTICAL IMPLICATION

- REDEMPTORIST CONSTITUTION

Art. 2: The Presence of Christ in the Community

23. Since the members are called to continue the presence of Christ and his mission of redemption in the world, they choose the person of Christ as the centre of their life, and strive day by day to enter ever more intimately into personal union with him. Thus, at the heart of the community, to form it and sustain it, is the Redeemer himself and his Spirit of love. And the closer their union with Christ, the stronger will become their union with each other.

24. So as to share truly in the love of the Son for his Father and for people, they will cultivate the spirit of contemplation which deepens and strengthens their faith. This will enable them to see God in the people and in the events of everyday life. They will see his plan of salvation in its true light, and be able to distinguish between what is real and what is illusory.

VI. CONCLUSION

HOW TO FOSTER AWARENESS OF GOD'S PRESENCE:

- *picture Our Lord as present with us wherever we may happen to be.*
- *see God with the eyes of faith and being thoroughly persuaded that He is present and a witness of our actions...*
- *see God in His creatures*
- *behold God within our very selves.*