

Year of Faith
Liturgical Minute No. 12
Man is a Master, But Not of Himself

Man is a master – but not of himself. It is by obedience alone to our highest nature, created by God within each of us, that we find peace. The three laws compete for our obedient service.

The “law of sin” wars within our members. It subjects our will to do what it does not want. We are like St. Paul who laments in Romans 7, “The willing [to do good] is ready at hand, but doing the good is not. For I do not do the good I want, but I do the evil I do not want.”

The “Law of Moses”, in contrast, guides us to a peaceful order, where the lower rightly serves the higher. But it has no power to end the rogue rule of sin that tyrannizes our hearts.

The third law surpasses them both, for it carries both peace and power. It is the “law of the spirit of life in Christ Jesus.” As we read in Romans 8, “...the law of the spirit of life in Christ Jesus has freed you from the law of sin and death.”

Obedience to Christ is not a forced obedience – but rather, it is a tranquil obedience of faith that is born of God’s peaceful power of persuasion, when by grace our mind is freely charmed into full submission. When we consent to the testimony of God, we suffer no downgrade. To the contrary, we rise the highest within as we freely serve the Most High.

Major Source: Father J. Anthony Giambrone, O.P., Magnificat Year of Faith Companion