

SELF OFFERING

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God in His education of His creatures deals with us as with children. He gives us practical lessons far more effective than words. Year after year He unfolds His whole eternal Truth and teaches us to see there the presentation of His Plan of redemption and love. When we were very young we took everything for granted but as we grow older, we begin to realise that there is something to be explained and a lesson to remember when explained. What is that lesson? Simply that each one of us is on the way to one of two destinations of the soul, either to *self-offering to God or self-indulgence*. To concentrate on the former requires constant and sustained effort. We must ask ourselves three questions:

1. Have I grown as God meant me to grow?
2. Have I learned as God meant me to learn?
3. Have I accepted and profited by the discipline and difficulties God has sent me?

As members of the nursing profession we are called by God to help others. To do this best we must help them from the *inside*, we must be right *inside* (ourselves). And yet very few of us are right *inside*! Yet even so, in us all there is that which is right, something in us which is not ourselves, but deeper than ourselves. There is a love who will teach us what we always think we know, but what we really do not know, namely how to love others for God's sake and not our own. There is in us the spirit of God who is uniting us by invisible bonds to all that is good and healthy and Godlike, a spirit who disciplines our will when it is weakest and most self-indulgent, who trains our spirit and fights our battle against evil and temptation; a person who makes us persons, each one of us. Now you may ask; "How then do we differ, if this should be so?" "What is the difference between good and bad people?" "Is it that good people possess religion of faith or love?" Good people would tell you that they were possessed by faith and love, rather than that they possessed them. What faith or love they have—it is in them but not of them, not belonging to them. It comes from the Holy Spirit of God. The difference between us is not that some of us are inspired while others are not, but that some of us yield ourselves to the spirit of God while others of us do not. The difference between self-offering and self-indulgence lies here, as does the difference between a good and bad person. We begin to offer when we obey. We begin to obey when we so lose ourselves in the spirit and forget everything but the doing of God's will at the present moment. We ought never to settle any detail—be it small or great without taking God into account. We are foolish indeed if we attempt to do so.

A hard lesson to learn! Perhaps it may be, but, patience must have her perfect work. If we work hard at our lesson we shall know more, love more, think in a simple way and in the end do more. We all are students in this school. We may learn from one another but most of all we shall learn from the Master of us all who is in the centre. As we all learn from Him and love Him, we shall be more modest yet, more efficient. There is no competition in this school save who can love most, offer most and do most for Him who has done all for us.

TWO MALE NURSES WIN 3M NURSING FELLOWSHIPS 1975

Ibrahima Lo of Senegal and Audun Tommeras of Norway, are the two male nurses to be awarded the 3M Nursing Fellowships for 1975. The ICN Selection Committee announced the awards during the Board of Directors meeting recently. Both nurses will receive US \$ 6,000 to further their studies in nursing.

Mr. Ibrahima Lo, who is President of the National Nurses Association

of Senegal, plans to use his award for study towards a Masters degree in nursing from the University of Montreal, Canada.

Mr. Tommeras, who holds the position of Managing Director, Department of Nursing Service with the Norwegian Nurses Association, will undertake study in Social Pedagogy in his own country. He is a graduate of the Norwegian School of Advanced Nursing Education.

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A total of 45 national nurses associations submitted the name of a candidate each for the 1975 awards. The 3M Fellowship programme was instituted in 1970. Previous winners are: Berenice King New Zealand (1970), Junko Kondo Japan (1971), Margaret Dean India (1972), Alice Baumgart Canada (1973) and Irma Sandoval Costa Rica (1974).