

Reflections from Blessed John Henry Cardinal Newman

Blessed John Henry Cardinal Newman will soon be declared a Saint of the Church. Here are some of his best-known reflections. We can ask him to intercede for us as we seek to live together the Mission God has entrusted to each of us.

“God has created me to do Him some definite service. He has committed some work to me which He has not committed to another. I have my mission. I may never know it in this life, but I shall be told it in the next. I am a link in a chain, a bond of connection between persons.

He has not created me for naught. I shall do good; I shall do His work. I shall be an angel of peace, a preacher of truth in my own place, while not intending it if I do but keep His commandments.

Therefore, I will trust Him, whatever I am, I can never be thrown away. If I am in sickness, my sickness may serve Him, in perplexity, my perplexity may serve Him. If I am in sorrow, my sorrow may serve Him. He does nothing in vain. He knows what He is about. He may take away my friends. He may throw me among strangers. He may make me feel desolate, make my spirits sink, hide my future from me. Still, He knows what He is about.”

Meditations on Christian Doctrine

Stay with me, and then I shall begin to shine as you shine:
so to shine as to be a light to others.

The light, O Jesus, will be all from you.
None of it will be mine. No merit to me.
It will be you who shines through me upon others.
O let me thus praise you, in the way which you do love best,
by shining on all those around me.
Give light to them as well as to me; light them with me, through me.

Teach me to show forth your praise, your truth, your will.
Make me preach you without preaching - not by words,
but by my example and by the catching force,
the sympathetic influence, of what I do -
by my visible resemblance to your saints,
and the evident fullness of the love which my heart bears to you.

Meditations and Devotions

He rose in the night, when no one saw Him; and we, too, rise we know not when nor how. Nor does anyone know anything of our religion's history, of our turnings to God, of our growings in grace, of our successes, but God Himself who secretly is the cause of them.

Parochial and Plain Sermons

