



# Boston Catholic Journal

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## Purity of Heart

"Blessed are the pure in heart,  
for they shall see God."  
St. Matthew 5:8



## The Greatest Benediction

### Jesus offers nine benedictions:

*Three pertain to the Kingdom* (the poor in spirit, the persecuted, the calumniated).

*Three to consolation* (those comforted, those satisfied, those obtaining mercy).

*And three to possession* (of land, of sight, of childhood).

## **But only one promises *God Himself: the pure in heart***

Every other blessing gives something *other than*, something *less than*, God Himself.

This is kept only for the pure of heart.

All the other blessings pertain to God's justice in the way of recompense, and this justice *is* inseparable from His love.

But only this one pertains *solely* to God's love, and not His justice.

It is not a matter of recompense: it is a *spontaneous* gift, the unsurpassable gift, the most sublime gift, of Himself to those whose hearts are a pure reflection of His own love. Having been created in the *imago Dei*, the image of God, that image once again becomes, as it had been long ago at Baptism, pure, free from sin, untainted by selfishness – with nothing in the soul that is contrary to God. The mirror is unblemished and reflects nothing other than God Himself; it is the giving of God to the soul *in* the soul – not in anything outside of it, but in the very soul itself!

These, St. John, tells us in today's readings, are the ones who ... have washed their robes and made them white in the Blood of the Lamb." (Apocalypse 7.14). Spotless, unblemished before God.

*Strive* for mercy, peace, meekness; *thirst* for holiness, for justice – but *seek first purity in heart ...* and when you see God, you will see the beginning, the purpose, and the end ... of all lesser things.

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