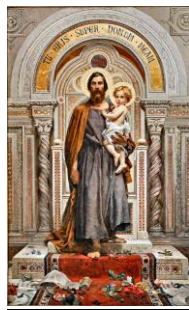


# St. Joseph Society



**Objective:** This series aims to guide men toward Christlike maturity by exploring the Armor of God as a framework for masculine virtue. In integrating Sacred Scripture, Catholic doctrine, and the wisdom contained in Fr. Lasance's *The Young Man's Guide*, men will be equipped to strengthen their faith, cultivate moral discipline, and foster brotherhood so that they may engage in spiritual combat and grow in holiness.

## Podcast Schedule

- Episode #5: The Lance of the Fear of God
- Episode #6: The Sword of Respect for Authority
- Episode #7: The Breastplate of Justice
- Episode #8: The Girdle of Self-Control

### I. Episode #5: The Lance of the Fear of God

1. The Fear of the Lord – “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom” (Proverbs 9:10).
  - a. Fr. Lasance – “If you wish to save your soul, fear the Lord; if it is your heart’s desire to dedicate your youth to God, fear the Lord” (114).
  - b. “The gift of fear perfects the virtues of hope and temperance. It perfects the former by inspiring us with a fear of displeasing God and of being separated from Him. It perfects the latter by detaching us from the pleasures that could bring about that separation” (Tanqueray, 1335).
2. Four Types of Fear: St. Thomas Aquinas – “We are speaking of fear now, in so far as it makes us turn, so to speak, to God or away from Him. For, since the object of fear is an evil, sometimes, on account of the evils he fears, man withdraws from God, and this is called **human fear**; while sometimes, on account of the evils he fears, he turns to God and adheres to Him. This latter evil is twofold, viz. evil of punishment, and evil of fault. Accordingly if a man turn to God and adhere to Him, through fear of punishment, it will be **servile fear**; but if it be on account of fear of committing a fault, it will be **filial fear**, for it becomes a child to fear offending its father. If, however, it be on account of both, it will be **initial fear**, which is between both these fears.” (ST II-II, q. 19, a. 2).

### II. Episode #6: The Sword of Respect for Authority

1. Respect for the Family: The 4<sup>th</sup> Commandment (Ex. 20:12; Deut. 5:16) – “Honor your father and mother; honor them by invariably speaking in a respectful manner to them and of them; by never allowing an insolent or unbecoming expression to pass your lips in regard to them” (Fr. Lasance, 134).

2. Respect for the Government – “True patriotism and love of religion go hand in hand” (Fr. Lasance, 161).
3. Respect for the Church – “As a good Catholic, true to your convictions, you will never speak in a disrespectful manner of the Church, her doctrines, her services, her ceremonies, or her priests. . . . You must also love the Church, and rejoice in her prosperity and promote her interests as far as it lies in your power to do so . . . You must, before all things, give proof of the respect and love you feel for the Church by carefully obeying her commands and conforming to her decrees” (143-144).

### **III. Episode #7: The Breastplate of Justice**

1. What is justice? – Justice is the virtue which perfects the will. “As a virtue, it is the constant and permanent determination to give everyone his or her rightful due” (Fr. John Hardon's *Modern Catholic Dictionary*).
2. The Virtue of Religion
  - a. According to St. Thomas Aquinas, the virtue of religion does not focus solely on worshipping and serving God, as it also directs all of our actions toward God for his glory, making our entire life religious.
  - b. Fr. Lasance – “Two great camps: the men who render to God the things that are God’s, and those who take from God the things that rightly belong to Him, that is to say, who do not perform their religious duties” (169). What do we owe God?
    - i. Go to Confession and Mass
    - ii. Study the Word of God
    - iii. Prayer – “Prayer is assuredly the ladder to heaven, without which it is not possible to be saved . . . Pray, pray always; if you pray, you will certainly save your souls; if you do not pray, you will certainly lose them” (173, 175).

### **IV. Episode #8: The Girdle of Self-Control**

1. Matthew 16:24-26 – “If any man would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. For what will it profit a man, if he gains the whole world and forfeits his life?”
2. Fr. Lasance – “Take the cross which the Lord has destined for you; desire no other, and learn to bear it in your youth, for then it will gradually appear to you to be light and sweet” (Lasance, 234).
3. St. Bernard of Clairvaux – “Christian warriors, He who gave His life for you, today demands yours in return. Abandon then the things that perish, to gather unfading palms and conquer a Kingdom that has no end.”