

A WORD THAT IS SUSPECT

June 1950 editorial

To those who ask you “What are these Teams?” you no doubt answer: “They are groups of spirituality”. The reactions to this reply are varied, as you will no doubt have experienced. They don’t all show interest or appreciation.

- Sometimes, it is just a condescending smile of the kind we give to a charming eccentric, harmless but of little use to others, who reveals that he collects Roman coins, autographs or butterflies.
- Sometimes, you are told: “I am no mystic; it is enough for me to be a good Christian. I am much too busy with my work, family or social commitments to take on spirituality as well!”
- Sometimes, people are genuinely shocked: “Fancy running away from reality in this way; is it not a betrayal? When there is so much hardship around us calling for everyone’s dedication! When a new culture is developing that will be against us if it is not build with us”.

These reactions stem from a big misunderstanding. Some seem to liken spirituality to a pastime, to a distraction! Others hold it in greater esteem but see it only as the pursuit of prayer and virtues. It would not occur to them that spirituality could be related in any way to family, job or civic responsibilities. Both these reactions ignore what spirituality really is.

How can we dispel any ambiguity? No doubt, all we have to do is to define clearly what the word spirituality means:

Spirituality is to do with the Christian life and the ways that lead to its full development. The fullness of the Christian life does not consist only in adoration, praise, asceticism (see Catechism of the Catholic Church 2015) and trying to live an interior life. It consists also in serving God wherever He has placed us: our home and family, our job, our civic involvements etc. It follows that couples who meet together to develop their spiritual life, far from looking for ways of escaping from the world, are endeavouring to learn to imitate Christ by serving God, fully in the world, in all aspects of their life.

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