

sincere desire to use our faculties to the best advantage even for others. To secure this infallibly and to make it a permanent purpose we need the element of consecration. That is a more interior thing than merely dedicating gifts. It means not only consecrating what we have, but consecrating *ourselves*. What we are is of more ultimate importance than what we do. The value of our actions is conditioned by what we are in heart and spirit. It is little to offer a compartment of life, a portion of our capacities, if we keep back ourselves. Consecration is the one and only effective way of serving, for it uses the whole life. Most of our lives, for example, are taken up by routine, so that everything depends on the spirit that animates and inspires the routine. The common round makes up the staple of our lives for most of us, and if that be divorced from religion, it means that by far the major part is left outside. But when self is given up to God, the ordinary interests and occupations easily and naturally become methods of service. One final act of self-surrender