**The Virtue of Prudence**

1. The Virtue of Prudence
   1. Definition
      1. It is infused into the practical intellect for right concrete action in view of supernatural end
         1. it is a fulcrum for all other moral virtues 2. it points out the just mean for all moral actions 3. without prudence no virtue can become perfect
   2. Importance
      1. Helps one to avoid sin
      2. Judges what should be done to grow in sanctification
      3. Assists in the apostolate
   3. Vices opposed
      1. Imprudence
         1. precipitation
            1. acting without attention to proper steps and proper deliberation
         2. inconsideration
            1. a spurning of making a judgment or no attention to it
         3. inconstancy
            1. the abandoning of a good judgment because of some difficulty
      2. Negligence
         1. A failure to even command the action
      3. False prudence
         1. carnal prudence
         2. craftiness
         3. guile
         4. fraud
         5. lack of confidence in divine providence
   4. Method of Progress
      1. Beginners – the virtue of prudence is often lacking in the young due to a lack of experience and the predominance of emotions over reason
         1. avoid sins that are opposed to prudence mentioned above
         2. Practice referring all actions to the ultimate end – ask the question: “*Quid hoc ad aeternitatem*?”
      2. Advanced Souls
         1. seek God’s glory
         2. practice choosing the greater good
         3. intensify practice of self-denial and mortification
2. The Parts of Prudence
   1. Integral Parts (elements which are required for the perfection of a given virtue)
      1. Memory of the past – one must learn from experience
      2. Understanding of the present – to judge the morality and/or fittingness of a given act in the present
      3. Docility – willingness for the inexperienced to accept the counsel and advice of the experienced
      4. Sagacity – ability to act rightly in an urgent situation where no time is available
      5. Reasoning power – ability to give required deliberation and consideration when time affords opportunity
      6. Foresight – need to judge means in view of end
      7. Circumspection – take into account special circumstances surrounding a given act h. Precaution – consideration of possible obstacles exterior or interior to oneself due to weakness, etc.
3. Have I been prudent? Do I love prudently? Have I given adequate consideration to the past? Have I looked with foresight to the future?