

A Reflection on Our Times

Stand at a busy street corner, and look into the faces of those passing by.
The world is far from being filled with persons who love God,
love others, and long for the Kingdom. Many feel empty,
unhappy, and "lost"

as they rush through life
seeking mostly comforts, money, importance,
to be loved or admired at any cost, power over others
or just to have a good time.

Many become unfaithful in marriage,
neglect God, disregard law and authority,
cheat or steal, practice discrimination,
drink too much, endlessly criticize
but do precious little about it.

Even many good people live everlastingly just for themselves
and what they can get out of life - or get away with
forgetting:

we are called to be lovers, stewards, and life has a purpose.

Some prefer sex or romance to love,
or pleasure—to anything.

Some ~~escape tensions or boredom~~ with drugs, erotica,
or violent entertainment.

Many are unwilling to reach out to others,
or commit themselves to anyone or anything—

except complete freedom.

And so we see:

Tensions and strife; racial, class, marriage
and personal,
injustice and crimes, violence and wars,
divorce and poverty, insecurity and discouragement,
feelings of powerlessness and guilt, low self-esteem
and insensitivity to the needs of others,
and even to their most basic rights.

Nature is damaged, "love" grows stale, and —
even life—is held cheap.

It's no wonder some people just "withdraw."
We have let our Father down.

How did we ever get this way?

Are we on collision course, or can we go on as we are?

Before we set our hearts on anything too much
let us examine how happy they are who already possess it.

— *François de la Rochefoucauld*