

*Notes About the History and Spirituality  
Of*

*The Society of Jesus Christ the Priest*

by Father Alfonso Gálvez

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One of the first published books by Father Alfonso Gálvez, *Notes About the History and Spirituality of the Society of Jesus Christ the Priest* was written as an exposé confirming the need for and establishment of the *Society of Jesus Christ the Priest* – first approved as *Pious Union* in 1980 by the Most Reverend Javier Azagra and later, *in accordance with the terminology of the new Code of Canon Law*, as *Association of Christian Faithful* in 1986, again by Bishop Azagra.

The author begins this book by providing a short autobiography which includes his call to the priesthood and his subsequent service to the Church. He essentially reveals his love for the Priesthood and his purpose in founding the *Society* in his simple explanation: *The Society of Jesus Christ the Priest was born as a gift from God which took shape in a youthful enthusiasm for the priesthood.*

This entire book, with only eighty-six pages, expounds perfectly and unambiguously the necessity of prayer, of knowing and becoming intimate with the Person of Jesus Christ and of living with Him the elevated calling to the Priesthood. Father stresses the necessity of preparing future priests by instilling in them the desire to follow Christ and to share His life: *I have found, after many years of working with youth, and particularly with priestly vocations, that the complete presentation of the figure of Jesus Christ is essential... To the Society of Jesus Christ the Priest, the only and principal goal of the pastoral with young people is to make them fall in love with Jesus Christ.*

The concept of *Priesthood* is dominant throughout this work, with specific emphasis on the Eucharist and the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass: *That is the reason for the paramount place the Holy Mass and the love for the Eucharist occupy in our spirituality... If the human being is to return the love of God with a love that is perfect and according to his nature, then the real and actual presence of a human nature in the Eucharist becomes necessary.*

The author sums up his purpose and his role as a faithful and loving son of the Church:

I do not wish to finish this writing without fully asserting my tireless struggle, during my whole life, to inculcate into my children love and fidelity to the Church. Borne in her bosom to the supernatural life, she has also nourished and guarded my faith. That is why I love her, and I deem being her son an inestimable grace. The *Society of Jesus Christ the Priest* would have no sense at all except within the framework of strict obedience and loving submission to the Church; the *Society* was borne in her bosom, precisely with the thrilling idea that its children will fight to the end in order to maintain their fidelity to that Mother.