

What is the Purpose of My Life?

By Fr. Glenn McDonald, CSB

Sometimes I find the winter months very difficult. Even though my weekly routine is largely the same as, say, September or October, the wind and the snow can obscure my internal sense of direction, making me feel a little lost.

Looking for a way forward, I often draw upon these words from Cardinal Newman. They strengthen me to make new tracks in the snow.

“God has created me to do Him some definite service. He has committed some work to me which He has not committed to another. I have my mission. I may never know it in this life, but I shall be told it in the next. I am a link in a chain, a bond of connection between persons.

He has not created me for naught. I shall do good; I shall do His work. I shall be an angel of peace, a preacher of truth in my own place, while not intending it if I do but keep His commandments.

Therefore, I will trust Him, whatever I am, I can never be thrown away. If I am in sickness, my sickness may serve Him, in perplexity, my perplexity may serve Him. If I am in sorrow, my sorrow may serve Him. He does nothing in vain. He knows what He is about. He may take away my friends. He may throw me among strangers. He may make me feel desolate, make my spirits sink, hide my future from me. Still, He knows what He is about.”

— John Henry Newman (1801 – 1890)