

For Heroes Only



In this life, most of the cheers and prizes go to heroes who perform feats of physical bravery. . . But there is a spiritual courage that often goes unacclaimed and unrewarded—except in the kingdom of heaven. . . And many a Medal winner would quit cold if called upon to exercise some forms of spiritual fortitude:

To begin again . . . especially after repeated falls.

To be unselfish . . . even with the ungrateful.

To be considerate . . . when others disregard our feelings.

To profit by mistakes . . . doing penance and gathering self-knowledge, instead of taking refuge in discouragement.

To admit error . . . and to apologize gracefully.

To forgive and forget . . . when tempted to poison the mind with resentment.

To avoid routine . . . using imagination and intelligence lest we take sacred things for granted.

To make the most of little . . . being grateful for occasional joys and utilizing our talents, however modest.

To speak out . . . when silence would support error or minister to injustice.

To be silent . . . when outspokenness would be positive harm or serve no useful purpose.

To be different . . . to go against the crowd when Christ's ideas are flouted.

To say "No!" . . . to all that Christ abhors.

To be faithful to duty . . . in large things and small, whatever the cost.

To be cheerful . . . despite sorrow, failure or disappointment.

To pray for those who have injured us.

To be patient . . . with God, our neighbor and with ourselves.

To shoulder responsibility manfully.

To persevere faithfully to the end.

—Paulist