

Homily  
Memorial of Saint John Eudes, priest  
August 19, 2024

Humility is such a common theme in our faith journey. We seem unable to remain devout and loyal without humility. It takes great humility for me to accept that I don't know everything, at least that's what my wife tells me. One of my favorite coffee mug says, "I'm not bossy; I just know what you should be doing."

Jesus says in today's Gospel that God hides things from the wise and learned, yet reveals them to the childlike. This isn't God depriving the wise and the learned, it is the wise and the learned being too full of themselves to be open to God's wisdom, to listen and learn. The childlike are open to listening and learning. My granddaughter is like a sponge, listening and learning, repeating things she heard months ago, sometimes much to our chagrin.

Jesus, the second Person of the Trinity, God incarnate, is humble. He trusts in His Father, is obedient to Him. And Jesus tells us to be the same, trusting in Him, taking His yoke upon us and learning from Him. Can we be humble like Jesus? "In You, Lord, I have found Peace," is our responsorial Psalm. It echoes the words of Jesus, "...and you will find rest for yourselves."

I try to think about what I may say or do as if Jesus was standing right next to me. First of all, He is, always there, right next to me. Secondly, if I hesitate about what I may say or do, then it probably isn't a good thing to say or do. This is a great barometer of how I should act, and keeps me in alignment with God's will for me. I don't always do this, but the more I do, the more of a habit it becomes.

St. John Eudes was a French missionary, the founder of the Congregation of Our Lady of Charity and many seminaries. He was the author of the liturgical worship of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary. (And don't forget to come tonight, here in church at 7 PM, to listen to Fr. Jason's talk, The Immaculate Heart of Mary!) At the age of fourteen he took a vow of chastity. Since the time he was a child, he tried to live in imitation of Christ. He was ordained a priest at the age of 24, and was immediately thrust into the service of victims of the plague, at great risk to his own life. He began many preaching missions and was known as the greatest preacher of his age. This man was truly humble, devoting his entire life to the ministry of growing the kingdom of God.

It is easy to get caught up in the many activities of our daily lives. It takes courage and practice to live our lives humbly, in alignment with God's will for us. It takes patience to endure our many failings in this effort. But, when we persevere, get up when we fall, seek God's forgiveness in the Sacrament of Reconciliation, come forward to receive the fullness of Christ in the Eucharist and go forth as Jesus commands us that we grow in faith and humility, that we grow the kingdom of God, and store up treasures for ourselves in heaven. Then we will see the Face of God and live for eternity in peace.