

EIGHTH DAY

THE TRUE MEASURE OF SAINT JOSEPH'S GREATNESS

April 6, 2021

St. Peter Julian Eymard writes:

Saint Joseph knew our Lord more thoroughly than did all the saints together; he lived for Him alone. In that lies his special glory, the keynote of his sanctity. In that, above all, he is our model, and in that too does his incomparable greatness consist.

I know that his life is little known and that he has very little exterior glory. But why measure the greatness of the saints by the brilliance and the marvels which surround their work and their life? God glorifies His saints in heaven, but we would have Him do it while they are still earth. We are somewhat like the Jews who wanted a triumphant Messiah. When we think of a saint we think of his exterior glory; we make him a throne alongside our Lord and try to glorify the man. It is good, no doubt, to exalt the gifts of God in His saints; but there is in that a hidden comparison, a sort of egotism, a certain desire that creeps in and draws us to serve our Lord so that we too may become great and glorious. It is a root of the natural man who always wants to be something even in the service of God.

Further question to consider:

What are some of the characteristics of Jesus Christ? Do I, like the saints, resemble Jesus Christ? If so, in what ways? If not, in what ways? Have I examined myself lately? What are some areas of my life that could use some "imitation of Christ"?

Action Item:

- Read Matthew 5:1-11. The Beatitudes have been said to be like a snapshot into the interior of Jesus Christ.

Daily Prayer:

Be mindful of us, O blessed Joseph, and intercede for us with thy foster-Son by the pleading of thy prayer: do thou in like manner render the Blessed Virgin Mary, thy Spouse, gracious unto us, for she is the Mother of Him, who with the Father and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns world without end. Amen. (*Memorare of St. Bernardine of Siena*)

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be