

St John Eudes (1601 – 1680), Feast Day: August 19, 2011

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Recently, my favorite Preacher read the words from a “*Treatise on the Admirable Heart of Jesus*” by St John Eudes, who was a French priest in the seventeenth century. It was on the occasion of his feast day August 19th. St John Eudes is known for his promulgating “*The Sacred Heart of Jesus.*”

Sadly, his book is now out of print, “The Life and Reign of Jesus in Christian Souls.”

I am going to read you the treatise from St John Eudes first and then I am going add some reflections (with Scripture passages) on how and what it means to me. It is my goal that we can all take away lessons on how we lead our own lives.

St John Eude’s Treatise:

I ask you to consider that our Lord Jesus Christ is your true head and that you are a member of his body. He belongs to you as the head belongs to the body. All that is his is yours: breath, heart, body, soul and all his faculties. All of these you must use as if they belonged to you, so that in serving him you may give him praise, love and glory. You belong to him as a member belongs to the head. This is why he earnestly desires you to serve and glorify the Father by using all your faculties as if they were his. He belongs to you, but more than that, he longs to be in you, living and ruling in you, as the head lives and rules in the body. He desires that whatever is in him may live and rule in you: his breath in your breath, his heart in your heart, all the faculties of his soul in the faculties of your soul, so that these words may be fulfilled in you: Glorify God and bear him in your body, that the life of Jesus may be made manifest in you.

You belong to the Son of God, but more than that, you ought to be in him as the members are in the head. All that is in you must be incorporated into him. You must receive life from him and be ruled by him. There will be no true life for you except in him, for he is the one source of true life. Apart from him you will find only death and destruction. Let him be the only source of your movements, of the actions and the strength of your life. He must be both the source and the purpose of your life, so that you may fulfil these words: None of us lives as his own master and none of us dies as his own master. While we live, we are responsible to the Lord, and when we die, we die as his servants. Both in life and death we are the Lord’s. That is why Christ died and came to life again, that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

Finally, you are one with Jesus as the body is one with the head. You must, then, have one breath with him, one soul, one life, one will, one mind, one heart. And he

must be your breath, heart, love, life, your all. These great gifts in the follower of Christ originate from baptism. They are increased and strengthened through confirmation and by making good use of other graces that are given by God. Through the Holy Eucharist they are brought to perfection.

The Gospel reading for both The Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and Memorial of St John Eudes (8/19) is Matthew 11:25-30.

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

A Reading from the Gospel of Matthew (11:25-29)
Glory to You, Lord.

(25) At that time Jesus said in reply, - "I give praise to you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, for although you have hidden these things from the wise and the learned you have revealed them to the childlike. (26) Yes, Father, such has been your gracious will. (27) All things have been handed over to me by my Father. No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son wishes to reveal him. (28) - "Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, - and I will give you rest. (29) - Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart; and you will find rest for your selves.

The Gospel of the Lord
Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ

I have always felt that when I leave Church we have been empowered by Jesus to go out and assist him to energize the world. We are Him. At the end of the Eucharistic Prayer, the Priest prays, "through Him, with Him and in Him." It is like He just filled us up with gas. Everything we do enables Him.

Do we believe this? Can we?

Is He worth providing blind faith, just in case we (as of yet), can't believe?

Do we take this literally? Why not?

St John Eudes, from his above treatise:

All that is his is yours: breath, heart, body, soul and all his faculties. All of these you must use as if they belonged to you, so that in serving him you may give him praise, love and glory. You belong to him as a member belongs to the head.

I remember praying in the Seton Hall Chapel, early in my conversion and pondered what would it be like if Jesus shined a spotlight on any internal crevice of my soul. What would He find? I got a stomach ache. I knew I needed to go to work.

Dr Charles Stanley, once asked if a guest was coming over to your home, would you not clean up? Why then, he asked, “Do we not cleanse our soul for Jesus?”

Let us look at (Galatians 2:20):

yet I live, no longer I, but Christ lives in me; insofar as I now live in the flesh, I live by faith in the Son of God who has loved me and given himself up for me.

His is yours: breath, heart, body, soul and all His faculties.

Now let us look at (Romans 12:1-2):

(1) I urge you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God, your spiritual worship. (2) Do not conform yourselves to this age but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and pleasing and perfect.

Renew our minds.

Do not place your trust in the flesh. It self-destructs. God is eternal.

Further on with St John Eudes:

This is why he earnestly desires you to serve and glorify the Father by using all your faculties as if they were his. He belongs to you, but more than that, he longs to be in you, living and ruling in you, as the head lives and rules in the body. He desires that whatever is in him may live and rule in you: his breath in your breath, his heart in your heart, all the faculties of his soul in the faculties of your soul, so that these words may be fulfilled in you: Glorify God and bear him in your body, that the life of Jesus may be made manifest in you.

And so as we just read in Matthew (11:25-27):

“I give praise to you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, for although you have hidden these things from the wise and the learned you have revealed them to the childlike. (26) Yes, Father, such has been your gracious will. (27) All things have been handed over to me by my Father. No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows

the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son wishes to reveal him.

Are we children?

Is Jesus revealing things to us? Are we listening? Do we always listen? Why not? Should we?

Has Jesus introduced us to His Father?

Why do children believe?

Father Groeschel once pondered why God spoke to St Faustina, (a woman who had maybe six months of education)? “Because she listened,” he responded.

Joyce Meyer says, “It is not your aptitude God is interested in, it is your attitude.” Jesus is not negative. Another way of saying it, “God is looking for your availability, not you’re ability.”

She also adds, “Frustration, complication and misery are available in abundance. But so is God’s grace.” “Grace is God doing for us what we could never do and what we will never deserve.”

Finally, let me leave you with the reading of (Ephesians 3:14-19). This is the first reading for August 19th, St John Eudes Feast Day

(14) For this reason I kneel before the Father, (15) from whom every family - in heaven and on earth is named, (16) that he may grant you in accord with the riches of his glory to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in the inner self, (17) and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, rooted and grounded in love, (18) may have strength to comprehend with all the holy ones what is the breadth and length and height and depth, (19) and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

Further Study: Sacred Heart of Jesus – July 1, 2011 (Friday after the 2nd Sunday after Pentecost) Deuteronomy 7:6-11; Psalm 103:1-2, 3-4, 8, 10; 1 John 4:7-16; Matthew 11:25-30)