

Daily Parish Communication

May 10, 2023

Good Morning!

Adoration following the morning Mass till 4:00 PM.

1. Today's Readings: [Wednesday of the Fifth Week of Easter | USCCB](#)

2. The RE Corner with Jan Heithaus: On Aug. 20, 2011, Pope Benedict announced during a trip to Spain that he would declare St. John of Avila a Doctor of the Church (2012). He said: "... I would hope that the word and the example of this outstanding pastor will enlighten all priests and those who look forward to the day of their priestly ordination. I invite everyone to look to St. John of Ávila, and I commend to his intercession the bishops of Spain and those of the whole world, as well as all priests and seminarians." So today, we include both a short biography of our saint as well as one of his writings so that we may get to better know this relatively new Doctor of the Church.

3. Quotes of the Day: St. John of Avila

~"I am clay, and you, Lord, the potter. Make of me what you will."

~"I do not think there ever was a saint who succeeded in becoming as holy as he had wished to be. But that never disturbed a saint, because saints wish to become holy only to please God and not for their own satisfaction. Therefore, they were satisfied with the degree of holiness to which God's grace raised them, even though it was not as high as what they aimed at. They believed that there was more true love in being content with what God gave them in wishing for more."

~"A single Blessed be God! when things go wrong, is of more value than a thousand acts of thanksgiving when things are to our liking."

St. John of Avila, Pray for Us!

St. Joseph, Pray for Us!

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Acting on Christ's words

All his.

Seal up, O Christ, your words in my soul, that it may not sin against you: gather up the blood you shed for me, and pour it into my heart; let my love be wholly yours as a return for all your sufferings for me. It was for me you did seek; for me you did fight; For me you did bear the mockings, and all that cost you so dear: let me be all yours, since you have ransomed me so dearly. God who is about to be born has no house, no cradle ready for him, so do you prepare your heart for his dwelling-place. Let it be warm with love, for the Babe is chilled; but still, if it be only tepid, the shivering Infant will bring it greater heat. The more he suffers from the cold for us, the more strongly does he prove his love, and so deserves our love still more. In the rigorous winter weather which he bore for us, he chose to wear no clothes to protect him; but naked was he born, and naked died upon the cross for us, because, both in his birth and death, he manifested the great excess of love. You must have ready a crib, then, in which to rock him to sleep, which symbolizes the repose of contemplation. See that you treat him well, for he is the son of a mighty King and a Virgin, and loves to dwell in the breasts of virgins, for the food that pleases him is mortified and crucified nature.

He has many poor brethren, and those who love him must love them too, for his sake. Give them your alms, for they are the brothers of your creator.

When our Lord comes to be born in your soul, keep careful guard over him, and may he protect and save you for his mercy's sake.

--St. John of Ávila

In God's presence, consider...

Do I have room in my soul for Christ's birth?

Closing prayer

Lord, save me for yourself. Be born in my soul for the salvation of souls, and my poor pathetic one.



St. John of Ávila

Beloved as the so-called Apostle of Andalusia, John of Ávila was a Spanish mystic reformer and brilliant preacher. He was born near Toledo, Spain, to a Jewish family and studied law at Salamanca (1514-1515) before being drawn to a religious life. For three years, he adhered to a life of prayer and austerity before studying theology at Alcalá under the great Spanish Dominican Domingo Soto (1494-1560). Ordained in 1525, he initially prepared for missionary work in Mexico, but in 1528 Archbishop Hernando de Contreras of Seville asked him to remain in Spain to revive the faith in Andalusia. Preaching from 1529, he soon attracted huge crowds with his sermons and was investigated by the Spanish Inquisition on charges of heretical teaching of excessive rigorism, denunciations of wealth and exaggerations. Acquitted and acclaimed in 1535, he continued his Andalusian ministry.

After nine years, he returned to Seville and then preached in Córdoba, Granada and numerous towns throughout the kingdom. Renowned for his sermons, he was an ardent proponent of clerical reform, especially concerning celibacy, and directly influenced such future saints as Francis Borgia, Luís of Granada, John of God and Teresa of Ávila. An associate of the Jesuits, he did much to foster the growth of the order in Spain, dying before he could fulfill his hope of becoming a member. Among

his writings are *Audi Filia* (c. 1530), a treatise on Christian perfection addressed to a young nun, Doña Sancha Carillo, and spiritual letters.

The saint was also considered a man who was “generous and in love with God and lived detached from material possessions,” they added.

The bishops recalled that after he was ordained a priest in 1526, he celebrated his first Mass in his hometown and celebrated the occasion “by inviting the poor to his table and distributing his abundant inheritance to them.”

It was said of him at the time that “if the Church were to lose the Bible, he could restore it on his own because he knew it by heart.”

Beatified by Pope Leo XIII in 1894, he was canonized on May 31, 1970, by Pope Paul VI. He was also declared patron of the Spanish diocesan clergy in 1946 by Pope Pius XII and has long been held as a role model for priests. Pope Paul VI said of him: “John did not doubt. He was conscious of his vocation. He had faith in his priestly election.”

Sources: catholicnewsagency.com