

Explore Envision 3

“Do whatever He tells you”

In the gospel according to St. John, Mary, the Mother of Jesus tells to the servants at The Wedding at Cana, **“Do whatever He tells you”** (Jn.2. 5) Mary was only a guest like many others. This may seem to be a command; but Mary realized the **‘need’**, in other words **she responded to See, Judge, Act**. Her sole intention was **‘to do something’** to remove the shame that the bridegroom was to face. **She believed that together with her Son she is able to do that ‘something’**. Empty jars were filled up to the brim. Water was turned into wine. Shame was transformed into joy, happiness and fullness. Thus the first manifestation of our Lord took place with the intervention of Mary our Mother. Everything becomes possible when we surrender ourselves to Mary.

The feast of St. John Eudes, is **an invitation to reflect on both Jesus and Mary**. We read in the book, ‘Our Heritage’ – ‘The church has seen in this passage a reference to Mary and her Son, united in one salvific mission. It was this union that Saint John Eudes loved to proclaim’:

“ I shall not tell you that you must never separate what God has so perfectly united. So, closely are Jesus and Mary bound up with each other that whoever beholds Jesus see Mary;

Whoever loves Jesus, loves Mary,

Whoever has devotion to Jesus has devotion to Mary”.

For St. John Eudes, the Christian life is a continuation of the life of Jesus, and, he would therefore have us continue on this earth the piety and devotion of Jesus for his holy Mother: “as you must continue the virtues of Jesus and keep with you his sentiments, so you must also continue and maintain in your hearts; the love, tenderness and devotion that Jesus cherished for his blessed Mother”.

“Jesus living in Mary- come and live in me
Here is a body to move among men
Reach out again to others”

History reports that the Italian Plague of 1629 – 1631 was a series of outbreaks of bubonic plague that ravaged Northern and Central Italy. This epidemic - often referred to as the Great Plague of Milan, claimed possibly one million lives or about 25% of the population. This episode is considered one of the latter outbreaks of the- centuries long pandemic of bubonic plague that began with the Black Death and gradually spread to the Western European countries. When the plague broke out in the Argentan district, in his own country, France, **Fr. John Eudes** had to leave Paris where he was preaching and studying. Being a devout disciple of Mary, he hears her whispering, **“Do whatever He tells you”** but to receive permission was not very easy. Since he insisted, only at the fourth attempt, Fr. Berulle grants permission and appointed him to the Oratory at Caen.

“Jesus giving in Mary - come and give in me
Here are two hands that are able to bear
Teach them to share with others”

St. John Eudes left on foot for Argentan and Vrigny. For two and a half months, indifferent to danger, almost without rest – he sleeps fully dressed – he helps, nurses and buries. Carrying in a tin box hanging round his neck, he absolves and gives communion to the dying.

“Jesus loving in Mary - come and love in me
Here is a heart that is beating for you
Pour out your love for others”

**“JESUS LIVING IN MARY- COME AND LIVE IN ME
HERE IS A BODY TO MOVE AMONG MEN
REACH OUT AGAIN TO OTHERS”**



In 1631, he responds to Mary, **"Do whatever he tells you"** - in Caen he repeated the same service. He did not go to the community, so as not to infect his brothers. Instead in solidarity with the patients who were left alone in the fields; Fr. John Eudes spend the nights in a barrel. But when he heard about three of his brothers he came back to care for them, and then returned to his ministry among the poor. The reality is that the greatest fulfillment in improving ourselves comes in our empowerment to more effectively reach out and help others. **Quality of life is inside-out.** Meaning is **in contribution, in living for something higher than self.**

Since 2018, and especially in 2019, with the rapid spread of Corona virus, Mary unceasingly whispers to all of us, **"Do whatever He tells you"**. In the light of the gospel and following the example of Saints John Eudes, Joseph Vaz, Theresa of Kolcutta, we strive to be in solidarity with our brethren in our attitudes, thoughts, words and deeds even crossing over boundaries-embracing the whole world. Let us pray earnestly for all those affected and **let us uphold our Sisters in prayer, sacrifices and aspirations, who willingly and lovingly are nursing and taking care of the corona positive parents in our institutions.**

On this beautiful Feast of our loving Father- St. John Eudes, **let us plead the Lord for His Light; His Assistance to understand His Will in our lives.** Together with St. John Eudes, let us practice the following with a zealous heart:

THOUGHTS, meditating on the holiness of her life and the perfection of her virtues,

WORDS, taking pleasure in speaking of her perfections and in hearing them discussed,

IMITATION, striving to imitate our admirable Mother-especially her charity.

"You must recognize and honour her first as the Mother of God, then, as your own mother and queen. You must thank her for all the love, glory and service she rendered to her Son, Jesus Christ..." SJE

Mary, Mother of our institute and model of consecrated life, is never tired of saying, **"Do whatever He tells you"**. Thus Jesus **affirms, "What so ever you do to the least of my brethren- that you do unto me"**

A VERY HAPPY FEAST TO ALL!!!



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**Sr. Marie Iolanthe Nicholas -
'Continuation Formation
Committee'**