

“Littleness and Preparation for our Final End”

1. **The time we live in history does not value littleness** – everything in the culture be in politics, sports, entertainment, social media, etc. is meant to make a big splash and usually to be as dramatic as possible. But in light of eternity all that means nothing! God normally doesn’t work much in the big splashes in history, but behind the scenes in quiet ways patiently trying to direct our freedom into the ways of Goodness, Love and Truth. The Catholic spiritual life is all about the quiet ways of holiness, which is why the Church and the saints have always said our primary way to grow in holiness is by living the daily duties of our vocation - (*which is why it is so important to pray, discern, and discover our unique vocation from God as soon as possible in life to get on with our mission to help the Blessed Trinity to save souls*) – to do all our daily duties in union with God and offering all, especially the difficult things, for the salvation of souls. It’s often not glamorous, but it is the narrow path that leads to ultimate life - both in terms of an increasing our interior union with the Blessed Trinity on earth and then entering into that total union with the Trinity in Heaven.
2. **Do we realize how many opportunities we have every day to grow in humility and littleness?** So often we all pass by the things we are called to do: *saying our prayers and offering our day to God in company with our Blessed Mother Mary (from the Immaculate Heart of Mary to the Sacred Heart of Jesus), trying to be patient and kind with family members and the people we work with and interact with socially, esp. with ppl we find difficult to deal with, taking care of daily chores around the house, reaching out to those who need or want our help in different areas of life, offering our daily sufferings for the salvation of souls, including our own, taking care of work duties even when we are tempted to pass them on to someone else, if possible, or delay doing them for as long as possible, checking ourselves when we are talking negatively about others, spending time in sacred reading and study to grow in the knowledge of our Catholic faith because knowledge of the Lord’s ways leads to a more profound love for the Lord, as well as for the souls entrusted to our care, especially those who are particularly vulnerable members of our society, the unborn babies, children and the elderly, and so*

on. The bottom line is we have so many opportunities and ways to grow in holiness each day – may we not let those moments of grace pass us by, because they seem so little - and to our minds darkened to a greater or lesser degree by sin – **unimportant!**

3. **However, if we continue to embrace the spiritual ways of littleness of which St.**

Therese and our Lady are such beautiful examples to emulate, we will be prepared for our final end, whenever it comes. As St. Paul says in the 2nd reading today, *we walk by faith and not by sight ... And we would rather leave the body and go home to the Lord. Therefore, we aspire to please Him, for we all must appear before the judgement seat of Christ, so that each may receive recompense, according to what he did in the body, whether good or evil.* What we do here on earth matters to the Lord and most of what we do here is “little things” in all honesty. But if we persevere and remember those who have gone before us in “littleness” are the greatest spiritual role models for us humans living now on earth: remember **Jesus** Himself lived 30 out of His 33 years here on earth in hiddenness and littleness; the Life of **Our Lady** was lived almost entirely in hiddenness, and yet she is the holiest being who ever lived on earth next to Jesus. Remember **St. Therese of Lisieux** who lived an exclusively hidden and little life in a Carmelite monastery in France in the late 1800’s. When she died in 1897, her fellow religious sisters at the time barely could come up with enough info for a “decent” obituary because her life was so “ordinary” in their eyes - haha. God has a great sense of humor in that regard since she is now one of the most well-known Catholic saints in the world, and is now a **Doctor** (spiritual life expert) in the Church, as declared by Pope St. John Paul II in 1997 - because of her spirituality of the “Little Way” which this whole homily is based on. Yes truly, our hidden deeds of love are seen by the Lord, and so as Jesus says in the Gospel today, the little mustard seeds of our life can also blossom into the full bloom of the mustard plant as well - which is another way of saying – **we all are called to and can become saints which is the full blossoming of what God intends for each human being.** May the gift of our Baptism and our unique vocation in the Lord, the gift of Confession and the Holy Eucharist, and all the Sacraments and daily graces God wants to give us lead to that eternal union with the Trinity and draw as many other souls as possible to that union with God by all that we say & think & do in Faith. God bless you.