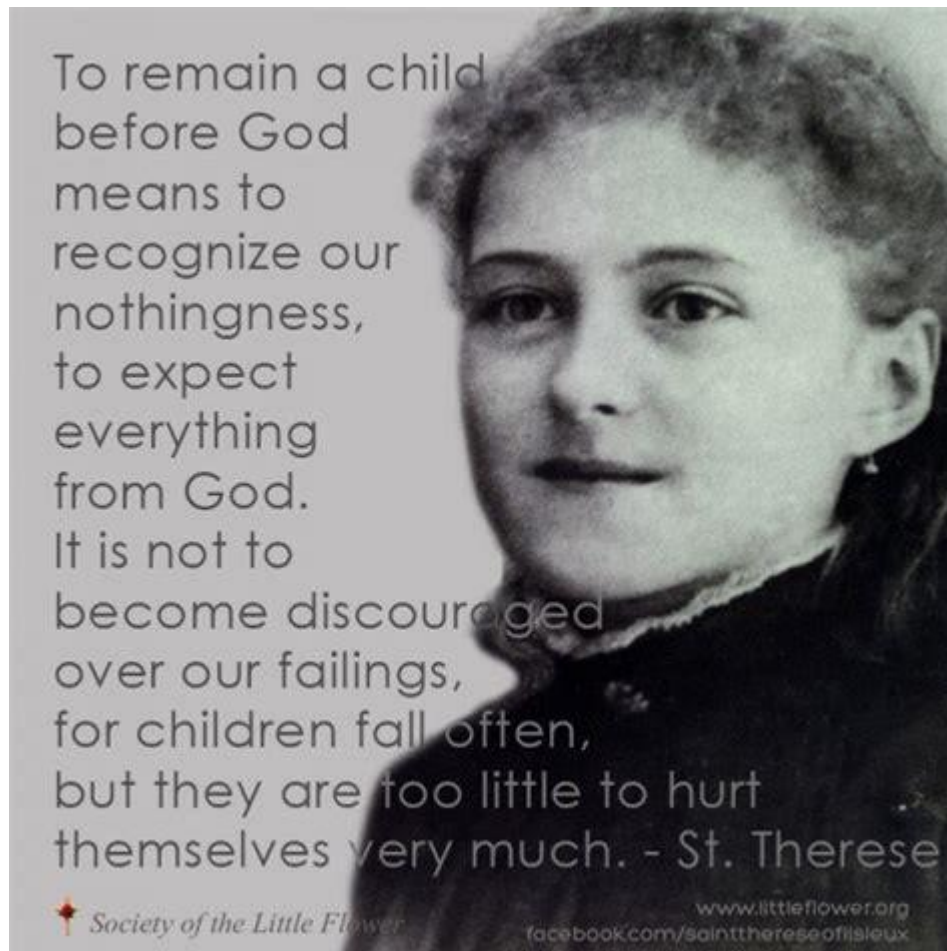


FROM FATHER JOHN: “Bless the LORD, O my soul; and all my being, bless his holy name. Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits. He pardons all your iniquities; he heals all your ills. He redeems your life from destruction, he crowns you with kindness and compassion. The LORD secures justice and the rights of all the oppressed. He has made known his ways to Moses, and his deeds to the children of Israel.” ~ Psalm 103

The Lord is kind and merciful!!!



In the gospel from mass today, our Lord Jesus exclaimed, *“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.”*

This raises the question of what it means to be childlike? I think it’s an important question to pray over given that Our Lord Jesus speaks of revealing

the mysteries of our faith to the childlike. It's also a difficult concept to define with precision. The best way that I can try to answer the question is through an example.

One of my best friends from my time in seminary is a priest of the Patterson, New Jersey diocese. His name is Tom and the two of us were classmates. One time, about seven months after we entered the seminary, Tom, three other classmates and I were sitting in Dusty's room watching a ballgame when Dusty got up and went into his bathroom to get something out of his medicine cabinet.

When he opened the door/mirror of the cabinet to reach in, Tom cried out, "Dusty, you have a medicine cabinet. That's so cool!"

Dusty replied, "Tom, what are you talking about?"

Tom said, "you have a medicine cabinet, when did you get it?"

Dusty looked at Tom with a strange look on his face and said, "Tom, it's been here all year long. Every bathroom has a medicine cabinet." Tom immediately jumped up and ran to his room as fast as he could. We heard a loud scream of complete joy coming from Tom's room. When we ran into his room, Tom was busily moving all his toiletries off the window sill in his room into his medicine cabinet. Tom looked at the four of us with huge smile on his face and said, "I have a medicine cabinet. This is so great. I can finally clear off my window sill and put my things away."

Tom was truly excited to have a medicine cabinet that had been there all along. His heart was filled with joy. Had it been me, I would've been upset with myself that I never noticed the cabinet and didn't realize that I had a cabinet for seven months. I would not have been joyous; I would not have been excited. Instead, I would've been a little ticked off and annoyed with myself for missing it. And, I would've been a little ticked off and annoyed with my classmates who saw all the toiletries on my window sill and never bothered to tell me I had a medicine cabinet.

Tom was childlike (and still is) in the best sense of the word. He trusts completely. He is humble as can be. He loves unconditionally, He accepts the Truth and proclaims it to his people. He accepts graces from God, big or small, even a simple thing like a medicine cabinet, with great joy. He joyfully lives in the moment. He immediately forgives others and himself. He lets obstacles go so that he can focus on our Lord.

These are the things that people who are childlike do. It's when we actively take on the mindset and perspective of children, that our hearts are opened to what the Lord is giving us and calling us to do.

May God Bless you and all those who love the Lord.



**GO THROUGH LIFE LIKE A LITTLE CHILD,
ALWAYS TRUSTING, ALWAYS FULL OF
SIMPLICITY AND HUMILITY, CONTENT
WITH EVERYTHING, HAPPY IN EVERY
CIRCUMSTANCE.**

ST. FAUSTINA

STEUBENVILLE **FUEL**

STEUBENVILLE
CONFERENCES