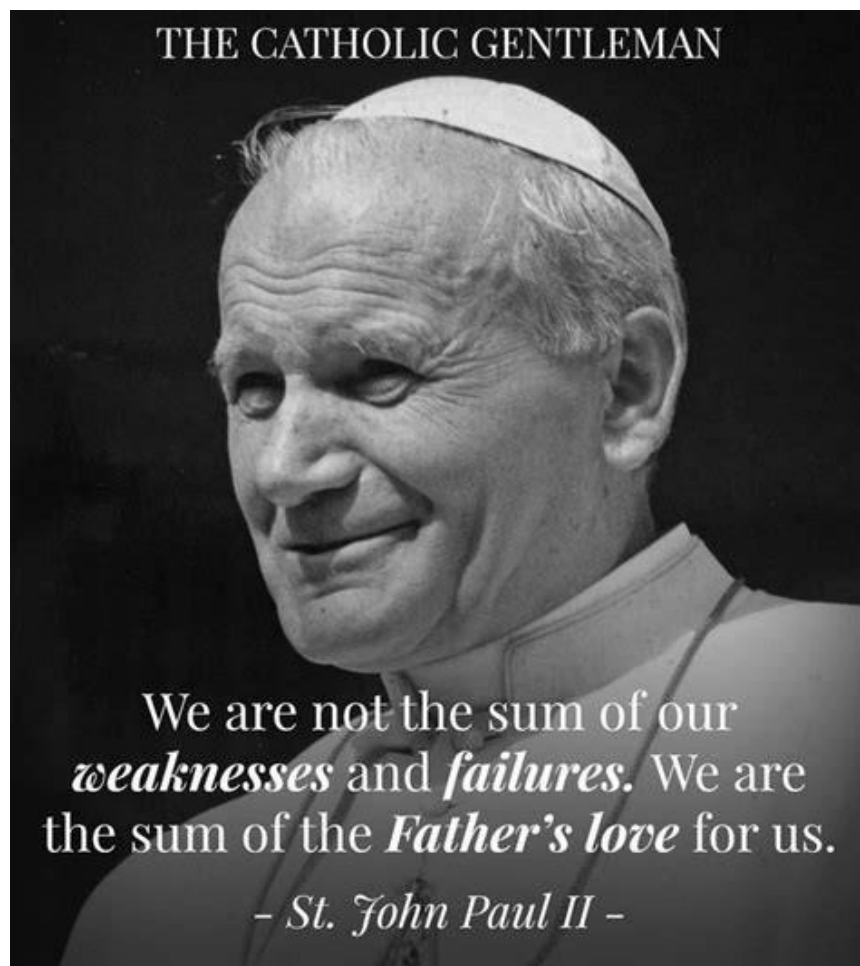


FROM FR. JOHN: *“At that time: So many people were crowding together that they were trampling one another underfoot. Jesus began to speak, first to his disciples, “Beware of the leaven—that is, the hypocrisy—of the Pharisees. “There is nothing concealed that will not be revealed, nor secret that will not be known. Therefore whatever you have said in the darkness will be heard in the light, and what you have whispered behind closed doors will be proclaimed on the housetops. I tell you, my friends, do not be afraid of those who kill the body but after that can do no more. I shall show you whom to fear. Be afraid of the one who after killing has the power to cast into Gehenna; yes, I tell you, be afraid of that one. Are not five sparrows sold for two small coins? Yet not one of them has escaped the notice of God. Even the hairs of your head have all been counted. Do not be afraid. You are worth more than many sparrows.” ~ Luke 12:1 – 7*

You are worth more than many sparrows!!!



I took the gospel passage above from daily mass this past Friday. Our Lord Jesus says to us, “Do not be afraid. You are worth more than many sparrows.” This is one of my favorite lines in sacred scripture.

Something seems odd to me. Our Lord Jesus encounters so many people gathering to see Him but they were harming one another as they tried to see our Lord. They were trampling one another. Our Jesus immediately began to speak out against hypocrisy. Why would that be what he speaks about?

It’s because the crowd was acting in a hypocritical way. They were eager to see and hear Jesus, yet had no concern for each other while they sought Jesus. They were willing to trample each other to see Him.

Other people’s lives were not valued in ancient cultures. Sparrows counted for even less among the ancients. Yet, our Lord Jesus tells us that God knows the price and value of each individual sparrow. Everything He created has value in His eyes.

Every single one of us has great value in the eyes of God. The hairs on our head are the least valuable part of our physical bodies yet God takes notice of every single one.

Athletes who thank God after winning a game, athletes who point to heaven after a big hit or great play get scorned on sports talk radio. The hosts like to say God doesn’t care if they win, God has no part in their victory. The opposite is true.

There is a natural tendency to think that the rich and powerful don’t even notice us ordinary people. Does the President of the United States even know who we are? But, it’s not that way with God. God knows each and every one of us and is concerned about every aspect of our lives, even the hairs on our heads.

Jesus reveals a God who is near to us and cares about our ups and downs, our joys and sorrows, our successes and failures. That means we can speak to God about all our experiences, both in sorrow and in joy. We can bring to God the details of our lives in prayer, knowing that

he is deeply concerned about us. We can speak from the heart to God, as to our closest friend, sure of being understood.

If our merciful God is concerned about sparrows and counts every hair on our head, we can conclude three things.

1. We can bring anything and everything to the Lord our God.
2. There is nothing we need to fear in this world.
3. Each and every one of us, each and every human person, is of incredible value to God.

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

God loves us beyond
comprehension, and we cannot
diminish God's love for us.

Saint Peter

● quotation