



St John Mary Vianney

4th August 2020

Pharisees and scribes from Jerusalem came to Jesus and said, 'Why do your disciples break away from the tradition of the elders? They do not wash their hands when they eat food.' He called the people to him and said, 'Listen, and understand. What goes into the mouth does not make a man unclean; it is what comes out of the mouth that makes him unclean.'

Then the disciples came to him and said, 'Do you know that the Pharisees were shocked when they heard what you said?' He replied, 'Any plant my heavenly Father has not planted will be pulled up by the roots. Leave them alone. They are blind men leading blind men; and if one blind man leads another, both will fall into a pit.'

Matthew 15:1-2,10-14

We put pride into everything like salt. We like to see that our good works are known. If our virtues are seen, we are pleased; if our faults are perceived, we are sad. I remark that in a great many people; if one says anything to them, it disturbs them, it annoys them. The saints were not like that – they were vexed if their virtues were known, and pleased that their imperfections should be seen. – **St John Vianney**

Yes, my dear children, everything is good and precious in God's sight when we act from the motives of religion and of charity because Jesus Christ tells us that a glass of water would not go unrewarded. You see, therefore, my children, that although we may be quite poor, we can still easily give alms. – **St John Vianney**

LETTER OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS TO PRIESTS ON THE 160th ANNIVERSARY OF THE DEATH OF THE HOLY CURÉ OF ARS, ST JOHN VIANNEY (2019)

A hundred and sixty years have passed since the death of the holy Curé of Ars, whom Pope [Pius XI](#) proposed as the patron of parish priests throughout the world.^[1] On this, his feast day, I write this letter not only to parish priests but to all of you, my brother priests, who have quietly "left all behind" in order to immerse yourselves in the daily life of your communities. Like the Curé of Ars, you serve "in the trenches", bearing the burden of the day and the heat (cf. *Mt* 20:12), confronting an endless variety of situations in your effort to care for and accompany God's people. I want to say a word to each of you who, often without fanfare and at personal cost, amid weariness, infirmity and sorrow, carry out your mission of service to God and to your people. Despite the hardships of the journey, you are writing the finest pages of the priestly life.

As an older brother and a father, I too would like in this letter *to thank you* in the name of the holy and faithful People of God for all that you do for them, and *to encourage you* never to forget the words that the Lord spoke with great love to us on the day of our ordination. Those words are the source of our joy: "I no longer call you servants... I call you friends" (*Jn* 15:15).^[3]

It is always springtime in the heart that loves God.
St John Vianney

