



Dear Parishioners:

Is it better to be extroverted or introverted; controlling or accepting? Well, the simple answer is neither. These all have their strengths and weaknesses. Each can do great good or harm. Examples of extroverts include Sts. Paul, Ignatius, Peter, Catherine of Siena — introverts include Sts. John the Evangelist, Thomas Aquinas, Edith Stein, — controlling include Sts. John Paul II, Sr. Marianne Cope, — and accepting Sts. Include St. John XXIII, Therese, etc.

Be careful here for controlling/ accepting is not about controlling others. We all like to get people to do things our way and be in charge. We just do this in very different ways.

The extrovert tries to do it with loud and big sounds, while the introvert will looks sad until someone finally asks them what they are thinking. In most cases this is not done to maliciously harm others, but rather, has developed into one's basic temperament.

We are born with a certain temperament, and there is no one better than another. We are all called to actuate to the best of our abilities and to do something beautiful for God. There is no one perfect style of holiness nor personality. While this is true, we see in today's Gospel that God demands that we produce good for the kingdom no matter what our temperament may be.

We must never allow a negative fear of God push us into inaction and despair. A healthy fear of the Lord is a filial fear — a gift of the Holy Spirit that helps a person to fear doing anything that may offend God — as opposed to servile fear that dreads the punishment that may come from sin. Filial fear originates from a profound respect for the holiness of God, a sincere sorrow for even the smallest of sins, and taking care to avoid persons and occasions that may lead me to sin. Filial fear nurtures true humility in one's life partly because each is surrounded by the presence of God in the lives around us.

We must take the next step and put our profound respect for God into action. As we hear in the Gospel today, God is a demanding God who expects at least a minimum return for his generous gift to his people. Whether extroverted or introverted, each will be asked how they put into action their time, talent, and treasures to do something beautiful for God. Sometimes people think that what they are doing is quite small and will never please God, let alone make a difference. We think too small. Is not the Bible filled with examples of the little, the poor, the unconnected, the marginalized, etc. to work His wonders? One scene puts it quite well in the song Heaven's Eyes from the movie Prince of Egypt (<https://youtu.be/oG0a9WFkgzU>).

Every human being must fight against the desire for praise and thanksgiving in this life. Even though praise and thanksgiving are good in themselves, by seeking them, they will result in disappointment because we will realize very quickly how fleeting and ephemeral they are. On the other hand, when they come, it does warm our hearts and strengthen our souls. It is the focus of only seeking them out that leads us down the wrong path.

God can see far down the path of life, and we need to trust in God's design and how He paints the grace of life. Just the other day someone told me that something I said several years ago help him to let go of a sin and how his life is much better now. God can see the great design, and though I may think my action may be small, to another it may be an experience of Jesus that God will use to change a life.

God knows my limits and He knows yours — ego, our efforts are not to be judged by anyone other than God our Father who can see the pattern of the grand design. What we may see as small and insignificant, He sees as the final touch. Do not denigrate yourself before God or anyone. Do not live in fear disguised as a false humility. While true that no one is "qualified" before God, God qualifies those who strive to work for Him.

Let us work diligently this week to focus more intently upon the care with which God watches over us and respect the talents He has given us. Allow yourself the peace of trusting in the gifts God has given you by not comparing yourself to another who cannot do as well as what He is asking you to do. Let your hearts be at rest for Love knows what He is doing for you, in you and with you.

God bless,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Msgr. Bill". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Msgr. William L. Young, III | Pastor