

Day Two

Uniting Oneself with the Will of God and Trust in God

Uniting oneself with the will of God

Ah! Lord Jesus, thou must tear my heart from this world that it may be healed. O Jesus, be to be a Saviour. (Neumann's diary)

Deprive me of everything, my God, but not of the desire to unite my will to your will in perfect resignation! (Neumann's diary)

Although the practical matters of ministering to far-flung rural flock occupied his every day, Neumann was not a man who focused on the problems of daily living. Rather, he saw this life as a steppingstone to eternal life, and he urged all those to whom he ministered, whether immigrant farmers or wealthy aristocrats, to detach themselves from their worldly cares and devote themselves to God.

He was a man who endeavoured to unite himself to the will of God. His one aim was to seek to God's will and to give God glory. He spent his life trying his very best to focus on the will of God which was the furthering of the Lord's kingdom. Neumann's spirituality can inspire us to shift our emphasis, for most of us focus on our physical or emotional needs to the exclusion of our spirituality. As he urged his flock, if we first seek God's kingdom, the way may be difficult, but we will eventually have all our hearts can desire.

Trust

All care regarding temporal things should be cast upon the Lord who hath a care for us. (Neumann's letter to Cardinal Franzoni, Prefect of Propaganda, May 28, 1855)

I have always had the greatest confidence in God, who always seconds what one undertakes for his glory. (Neumann's letter to Sister St. John)

When Neumann left his home to become a missionary in the US, he trusted that God would not only supply the needed funds but also take care of his ordination. God's response to Neumann's faith was abundant, enabling him to minister to those hungering for the Word and making the 'little Bishop' a living lesson of the way the Spirit works in and through human lives. His many successes in the ministry both as a Redemptorist superior and later as bishop are attributed to his immense trust in the loving providence of God.

We learn from 'The Little Bishop' St. John Neumann that these two virtues, two pillars of our Redemptorist life and Spirituality are indeed possible to be lived and imbibed in our lives today. Our daily prayer must be one, Oh Lord, guide me to do your Holy Will in all things today so as to please you alone. Further, that despite the challenges of each day, we learn that have to keep trusting in God's plan for us and in his providential care for us.