Tuesday of 2nd Week of Lent

BETTER

"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

ST HUBERT

Hubert, the oldest son of the Duke of Aquitaine, was born about the year 656 in what is today called France. As a youth, Hubert was strong and believed himself better than others. Since battles were fought by use of bow and arrow, he soon learned the archer's art. Riding and hunting, especially stag and deer chasing, occupied most of his time. Because of his charming manner and love of pleasure, Hubert was considered better than other courtiers and gave himself up entirely to the pomp and vanities of the world. His mother, a devout woman, prayed for him constantly. At the age of 26, Hubert married Floribonne, the daughter of the Count of Louvain. She made Hubert conscious of his duties to God and Church. By her example, he began to change, losing many of his worldly habits.

After a little more than a year of marriage and the birth of a son, his wife took ill and soon died. Hubert was filled with great melancholy and soon forgot his promise to be a faithful son of the Church. On Good Friday, Hubert rode out of the castle, alone, with bow and arrow to try to lose his sorrow in the wild excitement of the chase. At that hour people were gathering for the Way of the Cross but Hubert preferred to go hunting. After more than an hour, a stately stag with antlers high came toward him. Hubert prepared for the kill, but then saw a radiant crucifix between the antlers. A voice broke through the solemn silence and told Hubert to turn his life over to God.
Hubert dismounted, knelt on the ground, and followed the Lord's command. He became a priest and later a bishop. He preached eloquently, and converted thousands, often attracting them by his expertise with the bow and arrow. Sometimes it is easy for us to strive to be better than others. Our society teaches us that those who finish first have first place worth and those finishing last have last place worth. St. Hubert always wanted to be better than others to have more worth. We need to learn that our worth comes from our relationship with God rather than our accomplishments. God's love is an unconditional one after all! How have you believed that you needed to be better than others in order to have the most worth?

For your prayer

St. Hubert would have prayed with Matthew 23:1-12. Use your imagination as you slowly read Matthew 23:1-12. Please reflect on how the scribes and Pharisees treated holiness like a competition. Reflect on how Jesus teaches us that only when we are humble in realizing our worth as Beloved children are we exalted.