

By
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Of Farmers & Priests

St. Isidore was a Spanish laborer who was hired as a plowman on a farm owned by a rich nobleman from Madrid. Isidore worked hard, but he never missed daily Mass. Neighbors to the farm went to the nobleman and accused Isidore of shirking his work to attend daily Mass. When the nobleman asked him about it, Isidore said, "I know I'm your servant, Sir, but I have another Master I owe service and obedience to as well. If you think you're cheated because I serve God, please deduct from my wages what you feel I deserve."

Wanting to know himself how matters stood, the nobleman went to the farm very early one morning. When he found that Isidore didn't begin work until later, he began heading toward his plowman to chew him out. As he approached Isidore, however, he was surprised to see two strangers, each with a team of white oxen, plowing on each side of his servant. As he approached closer, they disappeared. The nobleman said to Isidore, "For God's sake, man, who are the two men who were plowing with you just now?"

Isidore replied, "I assure you, Sir, I haven't seen anyone. I don't ask for help from anyone, except God at Holy Mass every morning."

The nobleman then understood that the two men he'd seen were angels sent by God to help Isidore in return for his attending Mass with such great faithfulness and devotion. He never bothered Isidore again.

Attending Mass or visiting Jesus in the tabernacle are never a loss of time. God rewards your sacrifices. What you may lose materially you gain spiritually, and these blessings are far more important. Like Isidore, God will actually send His angels to help you.

Among the many other seemingly miraculous things I'd experienced with him, Fr. Killian Mooney, the priest who received me into the Church more than thirty years ago, apparently had celestial assistance. This holy old octogenarian priest died of a stroke. A couple of days after his death, I was speaking to the archbishop about him. His Excellency told me that Fr. Killian got twice as much work done in a day than any ten priests in the diocese half his age. That was no surprise to me.

Every morning, as the first pink rays of dawn began to color the horizon, Fr. Killian would go into the sanctuary in his parish church. He'd pull his chair up close to the tabernacle. Then he'd begin his conversation with Jesus. He'd tell Jesus about what he'd planned for the day, and ask for whatever help he needed. Then he'd return to the tabernacle several times throughout the day to continue in conversation with his boss' Boss. He'd spend a total of several hours per day

before the tabernacle, yet the archbishop was able to tell me that Fr. Killian got twice as much work done in a day than any ten priests in the diocese half his age. Amazing!

Fr. Killian Sent Me!

Fr. Killian's parish church was the only one in the county, and the parish covered two and a half counties in the poorest part of this agrarian state. Father had a "program" where people would come to him one day a week for help. They would form a line outside the rectory and half way around the block. Visitors to the parish might need groceries, or a utility bill paid, or a battery for the car so a man could drive to his new job. Fr. Killian would counsel and pray with the visitor, then he'd write a voucher for whatever the need. Just by saying, "Fr. Killian sent me" and presenting the voucher, every business in the area would honor the voucher and welcome the voucher holder. And every month those vouchers were paid by Fr. Killian.

After Fr. Killian died, the archbishop had the standard parish audit performed. It was said that Father spent roughly \$200,000 annually on those vouchers, so the auditors expected to have several accounts to audit. They found nothing—no bank accounts, no cash, no record of any benefactor, no record of any kind. It's as if God had produced the money out of thin air as Fr. Killian needed it, just as He supplied the angels to help St. Isidore.

My point to this is the importance of visiting Jesus in the tabernacle and attending Holy Mass. There have been many, many Eucharistic miracles in recent years, no doubt because heaven is trying to draw our attention to the importance of the Eucharist and the Mass, since surveys show that 70% of Catholics no longer believe in the Real Presence.

The Church commands that we attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation under pain of mortal sin, therefore Jesus commands it. Yet Catholics have become apathetic and lax about Mass attendance, only going when they feel like it or have nothing better to do. Those Catholics are flirting with an eternity experiencing the pains of hell. They're probably not the people reading this, though, so these words are likely wasted for them. However, as a spiritual work of mercy (there are seven), you can and should stress to them the importance of attending Mass.

Visits to the tabernacle are important too. Jesus sits all alone 24/7 in the tabernacle. He gave you the gift of His Real Presence and 128 hours in your week. Can't you give Him just one of those 128 hours? Don't say you're too busy to give one hour. If you're too busy to give one hour out of 128 hours, you're just too busy. St. Isidore had fields to plow, and octogenarian Fr. Killian had thousands of dollars to distribute for people in need... in addition to his regular priestly duties covering two and a half counties and two prisons. They weren't too busy. How can you be?

God is lovingly waiting for you. Weekly Mass is mandatory under pain of sin, but daily Mass isn't. Beginning the habit of daily Mass and at least one hour in adoration before the tabernacle or a monstrance will open new and exciting spiritual doors for you. Will this solve all your problems? Probably not. You'll probably have more problems as God helps you grow in His grace. But will you be happy? Yes, you will! You'll be happier than you've ever been in your life. I guarantee it!

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