

Feast of Pope St. Pius X

Reflection by
Reverend Father Eric Esparza, KHS



“The interests of God shall be Our interest, and for these We are resolved to spend all Our strength and Our very life. Hence, should anyone ask Us for a symbol as the expression of Our will, We will give this and no other: ‘To renew all things in Christ.’”

- Pope St. Pius X

On this day, August 21st, the Feast Day of Pope St. Pius X, members of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem celebrate a former Grand Master of the Order and Saint of the Roman Catholic Church. It is so important to prayerfully reflect on the lives of the Saints especially when one of those saints also contributed to the life of our Order. The beautiful service that members of the Order offer today form part of a long history of service rendered by so many others including Pope St. Pius X. We are blessed to be members of an Order that has truly impacted the Catholic Christian faith throughout the Holy Land.

There may be a temptation from time to time for us to believe that our own individual contribution to the Order does very little in the grand scheme of life. The Saints, including Pope St. Pius X, didn't desire to do great and amazing things, rather they chose first to be faithful to God. Pope St. Pius X in his desire to be faithful to God stated in his first Papal Encyclical, E SUPREMI, “the interest of God shall be Our interest and for these We are resolved to spend all Our strength and Our very life.” Pope St. Pius X was known as a very humble man who in no way aspired to serve the Church as Pope, but accepted the call because his desire more than anything was to renew all things in Christ.

As Catholic Christians and members of the Order we are called to use our time, talent, and treasure to make our interests those of the interests of God. Reading the Bible is an essential way to come to know with clarity what are the interests of God. As Bishop Gerald R. Barnes of the Diocese of San Bernardino often says, “we are called to be with those that are the least, the lost, the last, the little ones.” The work of the Order graciously allows us to do just that in the Holy Land.

When we are resolved to spend all our strength and our very life to the interests of God, lives are forever changed! Pope St. Pius X truly desired in his life to renew all things in Christ. May we as members of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem follow the example of our former Grand Master by renewing all things in Christ beginning with the birthplace of our Lord and Savior.

Invested in 2017, Fr. Eric Esparza, KHS, is the priest moderator of Holy Name of Jesus Catholic Community in Redlands, California and director of the Office of Priest Personnel for the Diocese of San Bernardino.