

March 26

Blessed Didacus Joseph of Cadiz

God day, good people! May the Lord give you peace!

Expectations can be set pitifully low. Against impossible odds, people rise to the occasion and pleasantly surprise us. Those that we assumed would not amount to much find their niche and then suddenly, they are off to new horizons. The entire trajectory of their lives is pointed to a new and wonderful destiny. An ability surfaces, an unforeseen talent emerges, an aptitude is discovered beyond all that we imagined possible for that person. Examples of these transformations are found throughout our biblical testaments and history of the saints.

In considering the life of Didacus Joseph of Cadiz, we find that many underestimated him. The bar could not be set lower for him when it came to academic achievement. This won him the title, "dunce of Cadiz." There was no expectation of future promise! After entering the Capuchin Franciscans and being ordained a priest, however, Didacus flourished as a preacher and leader of devotional prayer. Impossible, many cried out! He, nonetheless, became admired the world over as the "savior of the faith of Spain, as a second Paul, as the apostle of his century."

Didacus Joseph shows us that the Spirit of God anoints us in ways we may never believe possible. As the Lord and giver of life, the Spirit shows us that with God all things are possible. We need not be determined by the script others have written about us or their limiting expectations. We need not be envious or jealous of the talents bestowed on others. God has a purpose for each of us that is unique and perhaps hidden until the time is ripe. The important response to our journey of faith is to make the Trinity our God and our all. Blessings come! Turns for the better will amaze us. God's dream for us exceeds the greatest of human expectations.

Let us pray.

God of surprises, you endowed blessed Didacus Joseph with the knowledge of the Saints and wonderfully guided him in his preaching and devotions. With his help, help us to stretch ourselves for what is right and good, and to preach to all nations the unfathomable riches of Christ. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Blessed Didacus Joseph of Cadiz is a friend of God, the company we welcome today.

