

At this present time, our Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI is in England; where he will beatify the Servant of God, John Henry Cardinal Newman.

Cardinal Newman's early life was spent in London. He was born in 1801, and his father was a banker. At the age of 15, he became convinced that God was real. In the same year, the banks failed and his father had to seek other work.

In his 30s, he travelled to Italy and spent some time in Rome. At this time, with all the difficulties of travel in the early 19th century - ships, storms, diseases, etc., he wrote the poem, which has become a hymn, titled "Lead Kindly Light." The first verse of which is:

*Lead, kindly Light, amid th'encircling gloom, lead Thou me on!  
The night is dark, and I am far from home; lead Thou me on!  
Keep Thou my feet; I do not ask to see  
The distant scene; one step enough for me.*

Throughout his life, Cardinal Newman was a voracious reader. This led him first as an evangelical, then as a priest of the Church of England. At the age of 43, he became convinced that the One, True, Church was the Catholic Church.

In 1845, he was received into the Catholic Faith, and in the subsequent year was ordained a priest for the Catholic Church.

In today's readings, we hear of the struggle, which I believe in in each individual's life at some time or another, between placing our trust in material possessions or putting our trust in God. This is an important thing for all of us to reflect on from time to time. Namely, has God fallen into second place?

And we can also ask ourselves, where do we place our trust? While our currency may say "In God we trust," do we trust Him? Or do we rely on our own resources and only turn to God when we have exhausted all other things?

A prayer of Cardinal Newman that I have found useful for my own spiritual growth is called the "Prayer for Trust in God:"

*God has created me to do Him some definite service;  
He has committed some work to me  
which He has not committed to another.  
I have my mission -  
I may never know it in this life,  
but I shall be told it in the next.*

*I am a link in a chain,  
a bond of connection between persons.  
He has not created me for naught.  
I shall do good, I shall do His work;  
I shall be a preacher of truth in my own place,  
while not intending it,  
if I do but keep His commandments and serve Him in my calling.*

*Therefore, my God,  
I will put myself without reserve into your hands.  
What have I in heaven,  
and apart from you what do I want upon earth?  
My flesh and my heart fail,  
but God is the God of my heart,  
and my portion forever.*

Today as we approach this altar to receive the Sacred Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus Christ, let us ask for the grace to trust in God more and more each day. Let us let go of trusting in our own cleverness, or intelligence, or finances.

Let us ask for a deeper outpouring of the supernatural virtue of Faith so that we may wade deeper into the call God has placed on each one of us. Let us turn to Him more and more; and with each passing day let us TRUST IN JESUS EVEN MORE.