

Today is the Memorial of Pope St. Pius X, who was born in 1835, ordained priest in 1858, appointed bishop in 1884, a cardinal in 1893, and pope in 1903. He died in 1914.

He was the only pope in the 20th century with any parish pastoral experience.

He's the last pope to not have a doctorate degree.

He lowered the age of First Communion to the age of reason; encouraging frequent reception of Holy Communion and the Sacrament of Penance.

He oversaw the first codification of Canon Law.

He opposed the desires of some theologians to modernize Church teachings to conform with 19th century science and philosophies, holding up the legacy of St. Thomas Aquinas in the Church's.

He implemented a standard Catechism and required it to be taught in every parish.

He simplified the Breviary, restored Gregorian chant, emphasized Eucharistic piety, reformed church administration, and lifted the United States from being "mission territory" ... establishing 15 new dioceses, and naming 2 cardinals.

As a pastor, he encouraged personal holiness, piety and a daily lifestyle to reflect a life of deep Christian values.

He is credited with miracles - even while he was alive.

On his tomb in the crypt of St. Peter's Basilica is inscribed:

*Born poor and humble of heart,
Undaunted champion of the Catholic faith,
Zealous to restore all things in Christ,
Crowned a holy life with a holy death.*

In today's Gospel, we hear the parable of the King's Wedding Feast.

The invitations were sent out with ample time to adjust schedules, yet those invited were apathetic to the honor shown them. This apathy towards the king and his son can often be sadly seen in those who have no desire to honor God or His Son Jesus while claiming to be Christian.

The latter half of the story is a warning to those who want to claim the title of Christian without allowing the action of grace in their lives. This sort of do-it-yourself Christianity has been condemned even to the present day by Pope Francis.

As we approach this altar to receive the Sacred Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus Christ - let us pray for a spirit of fervor ... so that we may never show apathy to God, or the grace that is ours in Jesus Christ. And may we never take that grace for granted ... or worse, ignore it - setting aside God's grace for our own power.