

I'm not sure if anyone here watches "The Simpsons." In one episode Bart prays grace before a meal. It goes something like this: "Dear God. We paid for all this stuff ourselves, so thanks for nothing. Amen."

This is a balance sheet mentality. I do this, these things happen. Done. Next. But it's this type of thinking that misses the miracle. Are we aware of the miracles in our daily lives?

In today's Gospel, Jesus calls out the people of the towns where he had done his miracles.

It would seem that they missed the point. It would seem that while these miracles were being done in their midst, they had failed to change their lives. They went about things as if nothing miraculous had occurred. The miracles of Jesus were taken for granted. And despite what was happening right before their eyes, for the people of these cities, life just went on

And this is what we might consider for our own reflection.

Have we missed the miracle? Does life just go on for us? How are we to respond to a miracle?

A miracle is a manifestation of the power of God in our lives. Do we notice when this happens?

Today is the feast day of Saint Bonaventure. In his work *The Journey of the Mind to God*, he writes:

If you ask how such things can occur, seek the answer in God's grace, not in [teaching]; [but] in the longing of the will, not in (the) understanding; [but] in the sighs of prayer, not in research; Seek the bridegroom not the teacher; God and not man; darkness not daylight;	and look not to the light but rather to the raging fire that carries the soul to God with intense fervor and glowing love. The fire is God, and the furnace is in Jerusalem, fired by Christ in the ardor of his loving passion.
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And in the end:

[We] should turn [our] full attention to this throne of mercy,
and should gaze at [Jesus] hanging on the cross,
full of faith, hope and charity,
devoted,
full of wonder and joy,
marked by gratitude,
and open to praise and jubilation.

The response to a miracle is gratitude, wonder and joy, praise and jubilation. Let us strive to make this attitude our own ... an attitude of gratitude ... and let us pray that our response to the miracles in our lives ... the little miracles ... and the big miracles ... let us pray that our response to God's power working in our lives ... will be filled with wonder and joy ... an attitude of gratitude ... and that we may be open to praise and jubilation ... in thanksgiving for all that we receive from our loving God.