

Edgar Albert Guest was born in England in 1881, and came to the United States at the age of 10. He worked at the Detroit Free Press, first as a copy boy and then as a reporter. His first poem appeared in print in 1898.

He was known throughout North America for his optimistic and sentimental poems, of which he wrote around 11,000 ... which were syndicated in 300 newspapers, and are found in more than 20 books.

Eddie Guest was named Michigan's only Poet Laureate.

He died in Detroit in 1959.

One of his poems, titled "*Good Enough*" warns about not giving ones best.

*My [child], beware of "good enough,"
It isn't made of sterling stuff;
It's something any [one] can do,
It marks the many from the few,
It has not merit to the eye,
It's something any [one] can buy,
It's name is but a sham and bluff,
For it is never "good enough."*

In today's Gospel, Jesus, too warns us about being "*good enough*." He tells His listeners:

*unless your righteousness surpasses that
of the scribes and Pharisees,
you will not enter into the Kingdom of heaven.*

The word rendered here as *righteousness* can also mean *integrity, virtue, rightness, correctness*. In the first century, only God's righteousness surpassed the Pharisees and scribes. And Jesus is admonishing them ... and us as well ... to live as children of God.

Just as the small cloud was to become the huge storm in the First Reading from the First Book of Kings, a small venial fault can 'snowball' and ruin a good person's integrity.

Whether in our spiritual life or in our daily work, we can never settle for '*good enough*,' – yet we can do more than our best ... if we do everything with God's help.

As we approach this altar to receive the Sacred Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus Christ, let us pray to be open to God's help ... God's grace ... so that we might rise up from our own limitations and be formed into the newness of life in Christ.