

# Grace<sup>1</sup>

St. Peter Julian Eymard to the Servants of the Blessed Sacrament  
Paris, Friday, July 27, 1860

[...]

**How will you recognize an abiding grace in yourself?** First of all, it must be according to your vocation; otherwise, it is a false light. The Good Lord does not contradict himself. When you are following your given task, according to the rule of the moment, and you feel drawn elsewhere, you can say: This does not come from God. Set it aside – that's how you can discern for an external grace.

**How will I know if I have an internal grace?** By the kind of attraction, you can always tell. The Good Lord attracts us in peace, in the sweetness of love, there is something that we can feel. When a grace comes with all these characteristics, it is not a preparatory or assisting grace. When it is persistent and becomes a grace of union, of sweetness and strength, you have a royal grace – that is the grace of the day: it is the light. As soon as you recognize it, follow it – if you leave its power, you will fall into nothingness. You must remain in this grace as long as it influences you. You must sustain it. God lights a fire and invites us: Bring in the wood. This is how the reign of God grows. Do not abandon this grace until it goes out: God has placed oil in the lamp, let it burn itself out. **What do we do when the fire goes out?** We blow on it to see if there is still something under the ashes. Try to keep this grace alive; then you will know that you are acting properly. But, we are changeable, we lose time, we make ourselves miserable: we are like members that are out of place.

You always have ordinary graces. But if some extraordinary grace comes, run after it and don't let it get away: otherwise, on that day, you might not be at the king's table. Ask your guardian angel to make you attentive when God comes to visit you, and your patron saints that they might not be useless patrons.



## **Points for reflection:**

These simple counsels of the spiritual life are good at all times: to discern between the true and the false; the proper spiritual behavior to prolong a grace received; attention to God's action in us. Make this the subject of a personal examen.

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<sup>1</sup> Number 228. *La coulpe. La grâce.*(Admitting culpability.(?) Grace.)