

Dear Friends,

“... he humbled himself,
becoming obedient to death,
even death on a cross.”

[Philippians 2.8]

The passage found in Philippians 2.6-11 is thought to be an early Christological hymn. In it we see the economy and pattern of salvation. It is a simple dynamic composed of emptying – humbling – exaltation, all revolving around the cross.

Christ embraces our humanity in the incarnation and thus empties himself. In innocence he accepts the cross and knows humility. The result is salvation and resurrection. Thus, God exalts him. This all happens to Christ but by virtue of our baptism it happens to us as well.

The responses of witness and service follow. Because we know resurrection in the midst of death in our lives we proclaim hope. We show this hope in acts of service and charity. It is not a matter of blowing one's horn but of letting that which is within you naturally blossom forth.

In this regard Jeanne-Pierre Caussade writes – *The alternation of light and darkness, of consolations and desolations, are as useful – are indispensable, I would say – in the growing and the ripening of virtues in our souls as changes in the weather if crops are to grow and ripen in our fields. Learn, then, to resign yourself to them, and to accept ordeals no less lovingly than consolations. For even the most sorrowful of these ordeals, whether they come from God's justice or his mercy, are equally just, blessed, adorable, lovable, and beneficial. Often his justice and mercy join in sending them; but on this earth the operation of his justice is never wholly divided from his mercy.*

Sincerely,
Father Beaudin