

Earn vs. Express

Confirmands
engaging in public service
do not earn God's favor:
they are expressing it.

Communicants
preparing for the Eucharist
do not earn God's gift:
they are expressing it.

Catholics
carrying out acts of kindness
do not earn God's grace:
they are expressing it.

God's approach to us
is gratuitous—
i.e., unearned;
our expression to Him
is gratitude.

God takes the initiative;
we respond.
God issues the call;
we answer.
God takes the lead;
we follow.

In "dealing" with God,
we neither buy nor bargain;
rather, we implore and wait.

When before the Lord
we make ourselves right,
that doesn't give us rights.

God will listen to
our clamor,
but will not heed
our claim.

We are disgruntled
when He hears not
our plea.
He is disappointed
when we know not
our place.

Ancient wisdom:
we work as if
all depends on us;
we pray as if
all depends on God.

Acts of goodness, therefore,
do not earn bonus points
in God's accounting,
but rather express
bona fide fidelity
on our account.

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