

Kindness

"Although human nature itself is drawn to special kindness towards these times of life, that is towards the old and children, still the authority of the Rule should also provide for them. Let their weakness be always taken into account, and let them by no means be held to the rigor of the Rule with regard to food. On the contrary, let a kind consideration be shown to them, and let them eat before the regular hours." Source: [Rule of Saint Benedict](#)

A few thoughts, inspired about *kindness*...

There is a very fine point that can easily be missed here if we don't examine St. Benedict's words carefully. There is a distinct difference between the *natural* kindness of human nature that shows sympathy and kindness to souls in need, and *supernatural* charity.

Now it is of course a highly praiseworthy and truly wonderful thing to be a humanitarian and the world needs all it can get! But for the charity of human nature to be elevated to the supernatural virtue of Charity requires that an entirely different motive for the action be the genesis of our undertakings.

Don't misunderstand me, here. Working with the underprivileged or the elderly or any other group or soul in need is much to be admired and imitated. Never-the-less, if the underlying reason for these good actions is merely sympathy or vague feelings of injustice or any other human emotion and

not, at root, the love of Almighty God, then as praise worthy as the works are they are not Supernatural Charity.

Think I'm being too tough? Too old fashioned? Not PC? Well, if you're familiar with St. Paul's letter to the Corinthians Chapter 13 you will remember this: ***"And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing."*** We're talking "agape" or "caritas" here, Beloveds, not human love but a love above natural human love.

St. Benedict's Instructions seem very plain that the authority of the Holy Rule and the love of Almighty God must be behind our treatment of the needy and the ill. But there is a "caveat" here, too. We must be EXTREMELY vigilant that we are not tainted with even the faintest whiff of Pride in anything we do, remembering what the Holy Rule of Saint Benedict (echoing the Gospels) tells us quite plainly. Left to ourselves we are only capable of sin. Any good we do is by the Grace of God. To feel Pride at anything we do is foolish and makes idols of our false-self.

MLP

[Other resources: http://www.quies.org](http://www.quies.org)

