

Seventeen Evidences of a Lack of Humility

Fr. John Vianney of Ars, France

1. To think that what one says or does is better than what others say or do
2. To always want to get your own way
3. To argue with stubbornness and bad manners whether you are right or wrong
4. To give your opinion when it has not been requested or when charity does not demand it
5. To look down on another's point of view
6. Not to look on your gifts and abilities as lent
7. Not to recognize that you are unworthy of all honors and esteem, not even of the earth you walk on and things you possess
8. To use yourself as an example in conversations
9. To speak badly of yourself so that others will think well of you or contradict you
10. To excuse yourself when you are corrected
11. To hide humiliating faults from your spiritual director, so that he will not change the impression he has of you
12. To take pleasure in praise and compliments
13. To be saddened because others are held in higher esteem
14. To refuse to perform inferior tasks
15. To seek to stand out to increase your reputation and status
16. To refer in conversation to your honesty, genius, dexterity, or professional prestige
17. To be ashamed because you lack certain goods

Fr. John Vianney (Cure of Ars, France, a saint of the Roman Catholic Church) wrote this when he signed his name to a clerical petition. His fellow priests circulated a petition accusing Fr. John of sensationalism, ignorance, and ostentatious poverty and austerities. As it was addressed to all clergy, Fr. John got a hold of it, read it, and promptly signed it. By 1834 the local priests themselves were going to Fr. John for confession. (<http://www.cathinfo.com/index.php/Seventeen-Evidences-of-a-Lack-of-Humility>)

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