

Dear Minh,

It was so nice meeting you at the [Genesee Abbey](#) and to hear your life story and your ministry. My friend and I are so grateful that you arranged our meeting with Father John Eudes, which was totally unbelievable opportunity I never even dreamed of.

I learned about Father John Eudes through Henri Nouwen's book - [Genesee Diary](#). I am so glad that he recorded his conversations with him in detail so that even an ordinary, non-Catholic reader like myself can learn from Father John Eudes' wisdom and admire his deep spirituality decades later. I came to deeply respect Father John Eudes. I did not expect him to be still living or let alone run into him at the Genesee Abbey! It was a special blessing God had in store for me during the retreat.

My utmost desire is to finish well in this life, and I really wanted Father John Eudes, who is an epitome of someone finishing well, to impart to me from his wisdom. So, I asked. He told me two things, and added that he had a fiancée when he was young, and they mutually agreed to consecrate their lives to the Lord by him becoming a monk and her a nun. She passed away a few years ago, and John Eudes said, "I will meet her soon in heaven." It almost drove me to tears because it was such a beautiful story, which you only read in a classic novel. I shared this story after I return home with my wife and several friends, and they were deeply touched. Being a protestant, I did not even know what a liturgy was. Attending the liturgies daily from sunrise to sunset with the Genesee monks, I was so struck and even shocked at the beauty of psalms being sung as prayer. Coming from a protestant church's worship style where loud drum and electric guitars bombard your eardrums, which may seem more like an entertainment sometimes, this was a great detox of my soul.

I felt I was witnessing and participating in a genuine worship offered to God in spirit and truth. I was just so immersed in the daily rhythm of prayer and meditation in the beautiful surroundings, enjoying the silence and solitude, and the simple meals served in the kitchen. I could live there and joyfully! When I fumbled into John Eudes the evening we arrived there and introduced myself as non-Catholic, he quipped, "Maybe, we can convert you." In fact, the process has begun inside me already. My friend and I ordered [Abbey Psalter](#) from amazon and received them, and are using them in our lauds and compline at home. Also, I purchase a few books on Catholicism and will read up on them.



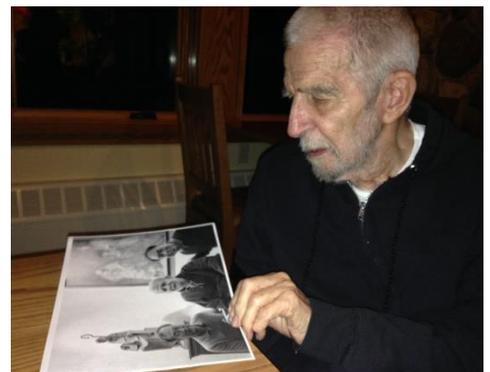
Thank you so much, Minh, for taking our picture with John Eudes, which we will cherish always. When we parted, Father John Eudes said, "Pray for me when you see my photo." You bet I do and I will. Please give my deepest regard to Father John Eudes. I really would like to return to the Genesee Abbey next year again. I look forward to reunion with you and Father John Eudes. My wife loved the Genesee blend coffee I brought home. She finished the bag already.

God bless you, your children's ministry, and your beautiful gift shop.

Yunki

PS. In the attached photo, I am on the right side of Father John Eudes.

Friday October 18 2019



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