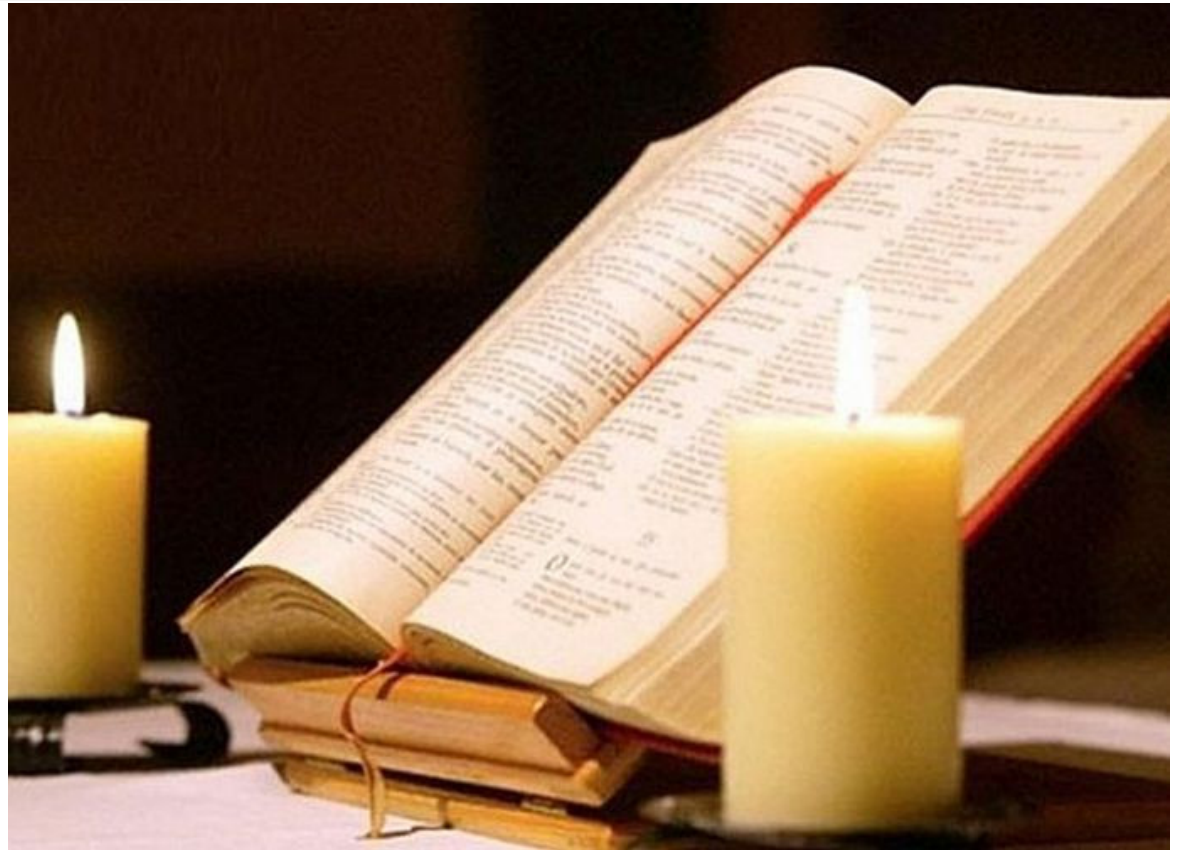


GOSPEL PEARLS

The rich in spirit

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At that time Jesus declared, "I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have hidden these things from the wise and understanding and revealed them to little children; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him. Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is

easy, and my burden is light.” (Matthew 11: 25-30)

The rich in spirit, that is, the proud in heart, believe they don't need God's help because they believe they are self-sufficient. Even when appearing humble, in reality, they are only seeking vainglory and the praise of others. To bring them to conversion, God does not reveal His secrets to them, but to little children. Thus, the humble are often the first to become disciples of Jesus. It is precisely for this reason that Jesus gives praise to His Father. Do we seek God's praise or that of others?