

NATIONAL APOSTOLATE FOR INCLUSION MINISTRY

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The publications of the National Apostolate for Inclusion Ministry advocate use of language which preserves and encourages the dignity of and respect for all people. The language used by submitting authors is sometimes used to preserve the integrity of their message and the organizations and people which they represent.

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THE BEATITUDES OF THE EXCEPTIONAL CHILD

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Jesus loves to hide behind the poor and the little ones. He loves to let come to Him children and those who resemble them. Jesus knows that children are the ones who allow themselves best to be guided to the knowledge of the Father. Jesus knows that the Revelation of the Love of the Father is more accessible to them and that they cling to it more fully.

Jesus identifies Himself with them in order to draw to our attention those whom we would be inclined to put aside: He does this so that we become more open to the reality of God and of our wounded brother. Jesus loves to choose the "Anawim" of the Father to make them His prophets.

At the sight of the crowds of people who surround Him, Jesus sat, His friends drew near and He taught them: "Blessed. . . Blessed are you. . ." At the sight of the crowds of people who surrounded him, the exceptional child stopped, his friends drew near and he said to them:

- ☪ **Blessed are you** who take time to listen to difficult speech for you help us to know that if we persevere we can be understood.
- ☪ **Blessed are you** who walk with us in public places, and ignore the stares of strangers, for in your companionship we find havens of relaxation.
- ☪ **Blessed are you** who never bid us to "hurry up" and more blessed you who do not snatch our tasks from our hands to do them for us, for often we need time rather than help.
- ☪ **Blessed are you** who stand beside us as we enter new and untried ventures, for our failures will be outweighed by the time when we surprise ourselves and you.
- ☪ **Blessed are you** who ask for our help, for our greatest need is to be needed.
- ☪ **Blessed are you** who help us with the graciousness of Christ Who did not bruise the reed and quench the flax, for often we need the help we cannot ask for.
- ☪ **Blessed are you** when by all these things you assure us that the thing that makes us individuals is not in our peculiar muscles, not in our wounded nervous system, not in our difficulties in learning but in the God-given self which no infirmity can confine.

Rejoice and be exceedingly glad and know that you give us reassurances that could never be spoken in words, for you deal with us Christ deals with all of His children.

—Andre Masse, C.S.E