

Memorial of Saint John Bosco January 31, 2017 St. Agnes Church

To be eccentric is to be odd and whimsical, strange in behavior.
To be androcentric is to be overly biased by masculine interests and point of view.
To be egocentric is to be limited in concern to one's own activities and needs.
To be anthropocentric is to consider human beings to be the most significant entity of the universe.
To be geocentric is to consider the earth to be the center of the universe.
To be heliocentric is to consider the sun to be the center of the universe.

There's one more –centric, really two more –centrics, that I hope describe your life, your attitudes, your way of navigating through the stuff of life:

theocentric: having God as your central interest, your ultimate concern.
Christocentric: having Jesus Christ as center of your concerns and activities.
I hope you have, and I hope you strive to maintain,
a theocentric disposition, a Christocentric disposition.

I hope your prevailing tendency, your strongest inclination
is to keep God and Jesus Christ at the center of your life.
Not wealth, not power, not pleasure, not sexuality, not comfort, not even happiness.
I hope your life revolves around God and Jesus Christ.
Some people reverse this. They become the center of their own universe.
The world, other people, even God and Christ, revolve around them.

One way to get at the truth of our lives is to ask: On what do I fix my eyes?
This will tell us what is most important to us.

Another way to get at this, is to ask the question:

“what or who has dominion over my life?”

Who or what rules over me?

Who or what carries the most weight when assessing value, determining importance,
when assessing possibilities and making decisions?

Now, we are responsible to our conscience.

And people appeal to this notion all the time...you know “I'm following my conscience.”

But lest we forget: our conscience is not God.

Up until the time of Jesus, sickness, disease and sin, had dominion over God's people.
These constitute the dominion of death. These powers, these realities are hostile to life.
They bring suffering and affliction. People had little or no power over these things.

With Jesus comes a new dominion, the dominion of life.

In the dominion of life the power of God rules.

In the dominion of life, God's will is done.

A new situation of liberation has dawned upon the world. A new possibility.

Another name for this possibility is salvation.

Jesus turns his attention to sinners, to the poor and the sick,
those who are under the burden of the dominion of death.

He brings to them, he offers them, the dominion of life.

The world is renewed. The integrity of creation is restored. But more than this.

The process of transforming the world into Kingdom of God has begun.

We live within this age of transformation.

Today's prayer: “O Lord, I accept the rule of Jesus Christ, Your Son, over my life. I accept and surrender to the dominion of life where Your will is done. Help me to remain centered, help me to keep my eyes fixed, on the building up of that Kingdom that lasts forever. Amen!”