



SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

21st Sunday in Ordinary Time



Isaiah 22:19-23

God removes Shebna from his office because of his arrogance and misuse of power for personal glory. How can power, position, or wealth become a trap that pulls us away from God's will? How can they be used as a gift to draw others closer to God?

Like Eliakim, we are all entrusted with gifts, vocations, and spheres of influence (family, work, ministry). How can we ensure we are acting as faithful stewards rather than self-serving "stewards" of our lives?

Psalms 138:1-2, 2-3, 6, 8

What does it practically look like to thank God with your whole heart versus just offering a polite "thank you"? How does our communal worship at Mass shape this kind of wholehearted gratitude?

In the Catholic tradition, humility is the foundational virtue because it allows us to recognize our complete dependence on God. Why do you think pride creates a barrier between us and God, while humility draws Him near? How can we actively cultivate spiritual humility in our daily lives?

Romans 11:33-36

Paul uses terms like unsearchable judgments and inscrutable ways. As Catholics, how do we balance striving to understand our Faith (e.g., studying scripture, the Catechism) with humbly accepting the mystery of God's will?

The phrase "from him, through him, and for him" is a powerful summary of God as the Origin, the Sustainer, and the Ultimate Goal of all creation. How do we see this reality reflected in Catholic sacramental theology (especially in the Liturgy, where everything comes from the Father and is offered through the Son, to the glory of the Holy Spirit)?

Collect

O God, who cause the minds of the faithful
to unite in a single purpose,
grant your people to love what you command
and to desire what you promise,
that, amid the uncertainties of this world,
our hearts may be fixed on that place
where true gladness is found.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity
of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever.

Gospel

Matthew 16:13-20

Peter did not come to the realization that Jesus is the Messiah on his own; it was revealed by the Father. When have you experienced a truth of faith that felt like a gift of grace rather than just logical thinking? How can we be more open to grace and the revelations of the Father?

Jesus promises that the gates of hell will not prevail against the Church. What does this tell us about the visibility, durability, and ultimate victory of the Church?

It can be easy to struggle with the human flaws within the Church. How does Jesus' promise of protection and authority in this passage change or strengthen your commitment to the Catholic Church?