

Humility



Sunday Reflection with Fr. Rafal



Dear St. Joseph Parishioners and Visitors,

One of the parishioners of St. Augustine asked him this question: "Father, what are the most important things in religion?"

"The most important things in religion? I should reply, the first is humility, the second is humility and the third is humility," answered St. Augustine.

In today's gospel, Jesus teaches to us a parabolic teaching about those who chose the high place at table when they are invited to a wedding banquet. They should not act as though they are the most important persons in the wedding hall; least they lost their chosen seats to more distinguished guests. To be asked to leave the place is very embarrassing.

Jesus told this parabolic story to challenge them with their pride and to teach them a lesson about humility. As Sirach had said in our first reading: "Conduct your affairs with humility and you will be loved more than a giver of gifts. Humble yourself the more, the greater you are and you will find favor with God."

So, our readings for today especially the first reading and the gospel talk about humility and its importance.

But what is humility? Is it to make us inferior to others? That we are no longer valuable? It is not. This word comes from the Latin word humus which means 'fertile soil. In other words, to be humble is to be ready to accept of who we are especially with our talents, abilities and limitations or weaknesses. God creates us equal and no one is superior. It means just like Jesus Christ, we also say: "Learn from me for I am gentle and humble of heart." It also means that we should live a life that Jesus lived – a person for others. We become truthful to others. We see today that everybody is competing of who will be at the top. But we are called to touch the lives of others. We are the hands, the feet and the mouth of Jesus. Each one of us will become Christ for others. We will use our talents and gifts not for ourselves but for those who need them most.

Today, Jesus challenges us to translate the word of God into our daily lives. Challenges us to make Bible alive in our hearts, minds and deeds. This is one way of being humble.

"My son, conduct your affairs with humility and you will be loved more than a giver of gifts," (Sir 3:17).

Have a Blessed Sunday!

Fr. Rafal Ligenza,

Pastor — St. Joseph Catholic Church