

Twenty Second Sunday 2019

My beloved brothers and sisters, in our culture and our society, humility has a bad rap! And yet, the greatest image of humility in the history of man, is God the Son, who became a man like us in all things except sin, even to the possibility of sinning like us! The first reading and the gospel are both about the truth of humility, and the life of Jesus and the word of God, and the facts of our lives call us to humility.

Humility does not mean degradation and self-hatred, it means standing before our God in the truth of my reality. The reality that we are is very simple: I have nothing to give to God, all that I am and all that I am, He has given to me. All of my talents, all that I have, have come from the infinite graciousness of our good God and His infinite mercy! The only possible response I can have that is appropriate to His infinite graciousness, is thanksgiving, that is the whole meaning of the Eucharist! He even gives us the perfect means of making this thanksgiving: He gives us Himself as the Divine Sacrifice, to be offered back to the Father, the same sacrifice He offered on our behalf to the Father on the Cross. And then, He feeds us with His True and Real Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity to bring us into complete union with Himself and the Holy Trinity. When I open my heart, mind and soul to the infinite act of Divine Love poured out upon me, and receive all that He desires to give me in love- that is true humility! When I give myself, abandon myself, surrender myself to His infinite outpouring of love for me, that is humility! When I recognize that I am utterly in need of His infinite mercy, because I am a poor beggar, a sinner infinitely loved by God and desperate for His love- that is humility!

Jesus says to us throughout the Gospels: "Learn from me, for I am humble and meek of heart!" He is teaching us to be like Him, who emptied Himself out in his love, pouring Himself out in love for us! Be like Jesus, empty yourself out in love, again and again, and again; and realize, that I cannot do this, without Him. Even this come as a grace, but it is a grace that He wills for each one of us!

The Mass makes truly present the death and resurrection of Jesus. He did not exalt Himself, but humbles Himself for our salvation! He transforms bread and

wine into His true Body and His true Blood! God desires to be with us so much, that He comes to us under the humble appearance of bread and wine as our food for eternal life. We literally become what we eat, so that we can celebrate forever what we celebrate in the Mass! The Eucharist is not just a symbol, it is real, because only what is real has any meaning! We are about to receive the eternal love and power of God in the Eucharist in the flesh of the Son of God. Today, when you say the words: "Lord, I am not worthy that you should come under my roof," mean what you say, and say what you mean, and rejoice in His infinite love by accepting it without measure! That is humility!