



[Jesus said,]
“Come to me,
all you who labor
and are burdened,
and I will give
you rest.”
MATTHEW 11:28

PAULDACHAN/SHUTTERSTOCK

Do You Know Who I Am?

That question usually means: “Do you know how important I am?” Reputation, status, and celebrity are extraordinarily significant in today’s society. Vulnerable, unsure beings that we are, we need to be reassured that we are important. And we *are* important, though usually not the way society might perceive it.

Each of us is unique. Yet our personal uniqueness does not diminish the uniqueness of others, and there’s the rub! So often we think that it does. That’s when we might try to put others down or demand: “Do you know who I am?” Often we don’t really know who we are. This is where humility enters the picture.

In today’s first reading, the king rides on a donkey. He doesn’t need a mighty warhorse to show others his importance or to reassure himself of his royal identity. Nor does he need military armaments like a chariot or bow to establish peace. He is secure with himself. He knows who he is—no more, but no less.

The Gospel portrays Jesus as “meek and humble of heart” (Matthew 11:29). He knows who he is. He is the Son of the Father, sent by the Father to do the will of the Father. All things are in his hands, because he received everything from the Father. He does not have to broadcast this or argue with others to convince them. He knows who he is. He is the Son—no more, but no less.

And what about you? Do you know who you are?

—Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

FOR *Reflection*

- ★ *Do you sometimes put others down so that you can stand taller? Does it work?*
- ★ *Be grateful for your uniqueness. Use it to make the world you share with others better.*

Dear Padre,

Why doesn't the Catholic Church practice what it preaches and sell off its considerable assets at the Vatican?

The Catholic Church, the world's largest charitable organization, has a legacy of ministry to the poor, the sick, and the ostracized. According to Pope Francis, the Church's real estate, for example, is used "to maintain the structures of the Church and to maintain the many works the Church does in needy countries: hospitals, schools." Thus, the old adage applies: Give a man a fish and you feed him for a day, but teach him to fish and he's fed for a lifetime. Similarly, selling the Church's assets would add to its immediate efforts to assist the poor, but it would prevent the Church from maintaining greater long-term assistance.



Moreover, selling the Church's patrimony of artwork (such as Michelangelo's *Pietà*) into private or corporate hands would deprive future generations the transcendence that comes from praying before a priceless treasure. In 2015, Pope Francis was asked if he ever felt pressure to sell "the treasures of the Church." He responded that they weren't the Church's treasures, but "the treasures of humanity."

While popes aren't at liberty to sell what belongs to "humanity," they generally donate personal gifts to support the needy. Motorcycles, cars, and other gifts to Pope Francis have been given away or auctioned to benefit the poor. On his deathbed, St. John XXIII offered his doctor his fountain pen, saying it was the only thing of value he possessed.

—Fr. Byron Miller, CSSR
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A WORD FROM *Pope Francis*

To do good...that is what God wants. He, who became small for our sake, asks us to offer something for the least of his brothers and sisters. Who are they? They are those who have nothing to give in return, the needy, the hungry, the stranger, the prisoner, the poor.

—HOMILY, JANUARY 6, 2018

Calendar

Monday

JULY 6

Weekday

Hos 2:16, 17b–18,
21–22

Mt 9:18–26

Tuesday

JULY 7

Weekday

Hos 8:4–7, 11–13

Mt 9:32–38

Wednesday

JULY 8

Weekday

Hos 10:1–3, 7–8, 12

Mt 10:1–7

Thursday

JULY 9

Weekday

Hos 11:1–4, 8e–9

Mt 10:7–15

Friday

JULY 10

Weekday

Hos 14:2–10

Mt 10:16–23

Saturday

JULY 11

St. Benedict,
Abbot

Is 6:1–8

Mt 10:24–33

Sunday

JULY 12

Fifteenth Sunday

in Ordinary Time

Is 55:10–11

Rom 8:18–23

Mt 13:1–23

or 13:1–9

ALINA ZAMOGILNYKH/SHUTTERSTOCK

