

## 14th Sunday in Ordinary Time

- According to a recent [Pew Survey](#)...
  - 71% of Americans are angry...
    - 66% of us are fearful...
  - We're facing the worst civil unrest in decades over racism...
    - We're dealing with a pandemic...
      - and having to live with large parts of society...
      - being locked down.
    - And the economy...
      - it's all but down the drain.
  - As one [psychology professor put it](#):
    - *"We're living...in a big anger incubator."*
  
- So what do you think is needed...
  - more than anything else...
    - in the face of all that anger and rage?
  - There are lots and lots of calls for justice right now...
    - There's certainly a need for that...
    - in any civil society.
  - But what about mercy?
    - That's not a word you hear all that much...
    - at least not outside of these walls.
  - What about Courage?
    - Especially the courage to stand up...
      - and speak the Truth.
    - There can be no doubt...
      - that we're going to need a lot of that coming up.
  - And then there are things like:
    - Love...Hope...Peace?
    - You could make a great case for any of them.
  - In fact...
    - aren't all of these things...
      - that I've just mentioned...
    - aren't they all needed...
      - now more than ever?
  
- When it comes to the needs of society...
  - it's very similar to our own personal needs.
- When you want to grow in holiness...if you want to become healthier and happier...
  - if you struggle with one particular vice...
    - then its good and prudent...to work on the opposite virtue.

- So if you struggle with Pride...
  - you obviously work on Humility.
- If Lust is your downfall...
  - you need to work on Chastity.
- But when it comes to Anger or Wrath...
  - what do you need to work on? What's the opposite virtue?
  - Love? Peace?
  - Nope!
- Actually...what's needed right now...
  - more than anything else in our world...
    - is something you don't hear a lot about...
    - not even in the Church...
  - but we did hear it...twice...in our readings today:
    - it's Meekness.
- Meekness is often equated with Weakness.
  - And we'll use it...in expressions...
    - like being Meek as a mouse.
  - But it's actually quite misunderstood...
    - so much so...that when looking it up on Google...
    - the question even came up...
    - is it good or is it bad?
- Meekness is indeed good.
  - It is a Catholic virtue...it's even a Beatitude!
  - It's what allows us to remain true to ourselves...in the midst of adversity...
    - rather than being taken over...by that affliction.
  - In other words...
    - it's what keeps us rooted in the Lord...
    - in the midst of spiritual battle...
    - in fighting off various temptations.
- And one of the reasons...
  - that I think this virtue...is so little talked about...
  - is because...it's so rare.
- In fact...in all of Sacred Scripture...
  - only two people are called meek:
  - Moses and Jesus.
  - No one would ever accuse them of being weak!

- Meekness is what made Moses stand firm...
  - before the world's most powerful army:
    - the Egyptians.
  - And the only weapon...he had to wield...
    - was His humble...courageous obedience...
    - to the Father's will.
  - He stood firm in the truth...of who he was...
    - and all that the Lord...was calling him to do.
  
- And the meekness of Jesus...was on display...
  - as He stood silently before Pontius Pilate...
  - as He patiently endured...
    - the afflictions of the scourging...
    - and all that came...from the angry and hate filled crowd.
  - Like Moses...
    - the only weapon...He had to wield...
      - was His humble...courageous obedience...
      - to the Father's holy will.
    - He stood firm in the truth...of who He was...
      - and all that the Lord...was calling Him to do.
  
- And look at the great good...that came from their Meekness!
  - Moses freed his people from Egypt...
    - and Jesus from Satan and sin.
  - So it's far from weakness.
    - Meekness is actually the key...
    - to the spiritual battle we're engaged in.
  - It's what enables a person...even a society...
    - to do good in the face of evil...
    - to choose love over hate...
    - patient endurance...over lashing out...
  - As [one author put it](#):
    - *“While it may be more natural to express anger when one is assaulted, meekness is the higher path. It prevents evil from completely overcoming the person who is already suffering enough from evil.”*
  - He goes on to point out that this is at root in our victim culture...
    - *“A person in adversity wants to be able to act, not be acted upon. It is so easy to be consumed by anger. But that is a way of being acted upon [by the other], even though the anger flows directly from ones own wounds.”*

- Isn't that the exact opposite of Jesus Christ...
  - who lovingly...patiently...Meekly...
    - bore each of His Sacred Wounds...
    - for the very souls...
    - that caused His affliction.
  - Far from being a passive doormat...when it came to suffering injustice...
    - Jesus was actively offering it...in love...to the Father...
    - a true victim for our sins.
  
- So there is a time to stand up...
  - and courageously speak the truth.
  - Jesus did so many times.
- There is a time to cry out for God's justice...
  - and equally for His mercy.
- And there is certainly a time...
  - to lavish...upon those around us...
  - things like...Love...Hope...Peace.
- But isn't it also true...
  - that all of them come together...
  - when we...meekly...suffer with Christ...
  - all the afflictions we're meant to endure?
  
- My brothers and sisters...
  - as the anger and rage of a godless society...
    - continues to gain more strength...
  - I believe we're going to be doing...
    - more and more of that.
  - Because in a post truth society...
    - when rational conversation is gone...
    - it's the last...best...chance we'll have...
    - to bring salvation to others.
- As I've said many times before:
  - Where Christ goes...so goes the Church...
  - so goes all of us...who truly want to follow the Lord.
- And so...
  - Jesus meek and humble of heart...
  - make my heart like unto Thine.
  
- I want to ask your prayers as I'll be heading out for my annual retreat.
  - I'll be up in South Dakota at Broom Tree Retreat Center.
  - I'll be unavailable from July 9th-20th.
  - I return to the office on the 21st.
  - Know that you will be in my prayers while I'm gone!