



## **22<sup>nd</sup> SUNDAY of ORDINARY TIME** **YEAR C – September 1, 2019**

We welcome all our students back to school and we ask you to pray for them. Pray also for our principal, our teachers and teachers' aides. Under their guidance and the guidance of their parents, may our students grow in wisdom, age and grace before God. We ask the same blessing from God on all our students who are going back to public

school.

God speaks to us today through the prophet Sirach (Sirach3:17-18, 20, 28-29) and the apostle Saint Paul (Hebrews 12:18-19, 22-24A). He reminds us that if we humble ourselves, we will find favor with Him. Jesus echoes the same message in the passage from St. Luke (Luke 14:1, 7-14). He says, "If you humble yourself, you will be exalted." So, what does it mean to be humble?

It certainly does not mean to allow other people to walk all over you. That's not humility, that's stupidity. The word humility comes from the Latin word "humis" - it means earth, the soil, the ground...

To be humble is to be "grounded" in the reality of who we are and what we are in God's eyes. God's opinion of us is the one that counts in the end.

We are children of God. We have been chosen by Him to be members of His family. We have been given certain gifts that should be used to build up His kingdom here on earth. That's part of what we believe as Catholics. Some of those gifts are for our own benefit and some are for the benefit of others. We have an immortal soul and our ultimate destiny includes living with God in heaven for all eternity. We are created by God and God does not make junk.

Unfortunately, our culture likes to pigeonhole people with labels of its own. Sometimes it asks us to believe things that simply are not true. There is a charming imaginary letter composed and sent to Jesus with some of our cultural labels on the people he chose as his apostles. It's from an imaginary consulting firm in Jerusalem. It concludes that 11 of the apostles are not fit for the job that Jesus wants them to do and it ends with these words.

*"One of the candidates, however, shows great potential. He is a man of ability and resourcefulness, meets people well, has a keen business mind and has contacts in high places. He is highly motivated, ambitious and responsible. We recommend Judas Iscariot as your controller and right-hand man. All the other profiles are self-explanatory. We suggest you look for people to replace them. We wish you every success in your new venture."*

What would that consulting firm think of you. While it can be important to see yourself as others see you, it doesn't really matter in the end. When all is said and done, God's opinion of you and God's opinion of me -- is the one that really counts.

Today, he asks us to be humble. For a few moments in silence, reflect on what that means and how that can be taught to our children who begin a new school year.