

## FROM FATHER DAVE, PASTOR

The late American author, salesman and motivational speaker, Zig Ziglar once said, “Your attitude, not your aptitude, will determine your altitude.” Indeed, the perspective we bring to life has a lot to do with whether we ever get off the ground.

The events of life can affect our attitude. At the same time, our attitude can affect the events of our life. The pandemic with all of its uncertainty coupled with the polarization of our country in this election time can adversely affect all of our attitudes. In addition, there are a whole host of other events that can wreak havoc on our attitudes.

In today’s second reading from his letter to the Philippians, Saint Paul offers an attitude adjustment. Saint Paul calls the Philippians and all of us to have the attitude of Christ who emptied himself in humility. Saint Paul describes the attitude of Christ in this way, “Do nothing out of selfishness or out of vainglory; rather, humbly regard others as more important than yourselves, each looking out not for his own interests, but also for those of others.”

The culture in which we live makes it difficult to place others interests before our own. In our humanness, the first person we often think of is the one we view in the mirror. How can we overcome the temptation to put ourselves before others?

There is, I believe, really a twofold response to this question. First, we can think less of ourselves and more of others by embracing the virtue of humility. Saint Augustine once said, “Humility is the foundation of all other virtue; hence in the soul in which this virtue does not exist there cannot be any other virtue except in mere appearance.”

The word humility comes for the word “humus” which refers to the earth and or the ground. The person of humility lowers oneself. There is a descent involved. And yet, this attitude of lowering oneself and emptying oneself like Jesus paradoxically determines our altitude. God wants us all to soar, but this all happens by lowering ourselves like Jesus.

The second way to overcome our selfish tendencies and to think of others is to regularly pray for them. Prayers of petition for others is a powerful way to keep their interests ahead of our own. There is no room for selfishness in our prayer let alone in our world. May we all strive to embrace the attitude of Jesus Christ.

On **Monday, September 28**, we will receive two individuals into the faith at a special evening Mass. We welcome **Micah Kerr** and **Elizabeth Sorensento** the Catholic faith and Saint Aidan Parish. Both of these individuals participated in the RCIA. They were to have been brought into the Church on Easter but due to the pandemic it was not possible. Please pray for them.



Next **Sunday, October 4**, Father Will and I will confer the blessing of pets at **12:00 p.m.** at the Saint Alexis campus. See you in the parking lot. October is traditionally the memorial of Saint Francis of Assisi, the patron of animals. While the Sunday celebration eclipses this event, we will still bless pets. We look forward to meeting your pets.

Have a spectacular Sunday!