

Homily090119
CONDUCT YOUR AFFAIRS WITH HUMILITY

First day of school, end of the day, a frightened first grade student was standing rather rigid almost in tears in fear waiting for his mom to take him home. Another boy, a little older, saw what was going on and inched over and reached out his hand to hold the other boy's hand until his Mom arrived. One boy was white. One was black. They are friends now. There was no ulterior motive. The one boy saw the other boy was afraid and took his hand. No words. Sometimes we don't need words. Be kind. Be humble.

Recently I saw a video of a high school graduation where there was an autistic young man who suffered from fear of loud sounds. The Principal mentioned this and his classmates clapped very gently or simply raised their hands and shook them the way deaf people do when they want to applaud someone who is deaf. Those students were not going to "get" anything from acting that way. It was appropriate. It was helpful. It was kind. It was human. There was a humility there. Those classmates showed they recognized the situation and acted accordingly.

That we recognize what is going on around us matters. What we do matters. What we do not do also matters. Why we do what we do makes a difference. Jesus was meek and humble of heart. He wants us to act the same. Humility comes from the Latin word *Humus*—soil. The word human shares this common root meaning. It means earthy, of the earth, earthy in the sense of "down to earth," not arrogant or boisterous or self-referencing. Humility is the recognition of what truly is. And the willingness to live in accordance with that Truth. Humility is Truth.

That is why Jesus is humble. He is humble because He is the Truth. He is humble because he is human. He is the Truth of God. The Truth from God. God is not boisterous or arrogant. God created the earth and all the humans on it. God also sent his Beloved Son who took on our flesh on this earth to show us the greatness that is ours which we do not see—or believe. God lost nothing by sending his Beloved to this earth to become one of us, to become one with us. To be human is not at all incompatible with God. The link between God and human is the virtue of humility—in all things. At all times.

Think of Jesus living in obscurity for all those years before he began his public ministry, before all his great miracles, before his authentic teaching, before his challenge of the religious leaders of his faith, before his suffering, his passion and his tragic death. He was a humble man. There was a compassion and a gentleness and a mindfulness about him towards anyone in need. He was willing to die for us, not just for good people but especially for those who are not good. To give everyone some hope, an opportunity to change.

In Jesus the Almighty God, Creator of the Universe saw fit to become little, tiny, even insignificant. He desired to fit in and blend in and be one with us and one of us. And from that place of common plight and solidarity He began to renew the face of this earth. He invited any and all who would hear him to participate with him and to follow him, and to live his way. A way of true humility. Not putting oneself first but living for the other. Loving the other. And loving God as Creator and Author of Life.

Do not live your life looking for payback. Do not live your life looking for money or success. Spend your life looking to be faithful and caring and helpful to each person you meet. Be humble, like Christ, and you will live with him in the Kingdom of God that He announced was made just for us. Let Him be the food that nourishes you to live this way in our celebration of the Eucharist today.

May the Lord bless us today and give us his peace.