

From the Pastor's Office

22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

I find it hard to imagine the scene of Jesus invited to the home of a leading Pharisee. Clearly this was not an invitation from a friend. I suspect the Pharisee wanted to have a good look at Jesus in action. He wanted to hear His words. I suspect most of the Pharisees knew Jesus by reputation and little else. Most of them could not pick Jesus from a line up. This was obviously a very grand celebration. These were Pharisee friends. People knew the reputation of Jesus and they all wanted to have a good look at him. Jesus was on show, and He knew it. Forget your etiquette. If they are going to put Jesus in this awkward situation He might as well let rip. Jesus began to reprimand. Actually, that is not the action of an invited guest. Where are your manners? Clearly manners have been left behind a while ago. Jesus spoke critically of the people He observed. He had nothing to lose. Jesus criticized all those who chased after privilege. The room was full of social climbers. We all know the type. They spend the evening positioning themselves among the social elite. Who are the big players in the room? Maybe they will get their picture in the papers. Jesus cuts them with his sickle. Stop positioning yourselves to become part of the elite. Begin your evening by sitting at the lowest place. At America's banquets that is usually the table right next to the kitchen door. Be contented with where you are. It is up to the host to approach and invite you to come and sit closer to the top table. To be perfectly honest I just want to have a nice time with friends, eat some delicious food, have a few laughs and go home. There are actually people in our community who spend their days trying to gain access to the cool kids table. It even happens in Church. I meet perfect strangers in the parish and I can tell that I am being played. There are people in the parish who try to win me over as their personal trophy. I live in their back pocket. I have had parishioners telling me that I owe them favors because because! I don't think so. I will not be owned by anyone. There is a fundamental about the Christian life. We live our lives as servants to the community. We strive for humility. If I am offered a prize it comes to me as an unexpected gift. I am not in the business of social climbing anywhere. All I want is a drink, some nice food and a few laughs. You probably don't want to sit next to me because I am not glamorous enough for you. Have a nice evening.



With love,
Fr. Pat