

# Saint Francis Xavier Parish

Twenty-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

October 6, 2019



Our Lady of the Rosary

## **TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, OCTOBER 6, 2019 FATHER DENNIS M. DINAN**

Dear Parish Family,

Is our faith what it should be? Could be? In today's gospel, the apostles didn't think theirs was. It started with them saying to the Lord, "*Increase our faith*" (Lk 17:5). Do we see ourselves as "*Unprofitable Servants*?" That's how Jesus describes the apostles! How do we stack up? In essence, are our lives ordered in such a way as to give God the right priority and his due? In the (abridged here) essay, "*We are Unprofitable Servants*," Chapter IX of (out-of-print) *Unprofitable Servants: Conferences on Humility*, Father Nivard Kinsella may help us to realize, in his estimation, what Jesus is asking of us today.

In view of what we have already said about reverence for God, we could define humility as a practical sense of the divine. Whenever we meet with God or his action—whether in himself, in the events of our lives, in our neighbor, anywhere or in anyone at all—we humble ourselves, we bow down and adore. The essential act of humility is to render homage to God, to acknowledge our subjection to him and give him all glory. This means not only accepting God's will but also his providence. As this latter is the more frequent, it is perhaps the more important. Certainly it is the more difficult. But to do so, especially in deed, by the practical adoration of a loving act of our will, is the very essence of humility. It is essential to the practice of the virtue that whenever we meet with God or his action, we adore—however veiled or hidden the appearances, or however painful or contrary the action.

If we would find a single general formula covering this attitude in all its acts, it is that of Christ in the gospel—"Say we are unprofitable servants." If we succeeded in developing this outlook and attitude to life, we would be truly humble. For we would recognise everything that comes to us, whether pleasant or unpleasant, easy or difficult, satisfying or disagreeable, as being in fact better than we deserve. We would recognise that everything comes to us from the hand of God, and is therefore right and good, only we cannot always see it so.... Further we must realise that he treats us infinitely better than we merit. We can never truly say: I deserve better than this. The fact is that we do not deserve life or love or grace at all. For when we have done all that is commanded us we must still recognise that we are unprofitable servants.

If only we never failed in this, how great perfection would be ours! For which of us has never said or thought: I deserve better than this. If we want to practice humility and come to its perfection it is especially by putting into action this principle given by Our Lord himself that we will do so. It is the teaching of the saints which Father Olier sums up admirably: "In sickness, in persecution, in contempt, and in any other affliction we must take God's part against ourselves and acknowledge that we justly deserve all that and more; that he has a perfect right to use every creature for our punishment; and that we must adore the great mercy he uses towards us, knowing well that according to his justice we could fare far worse."

There is no situation in which the "unprofitable servant" principle will not stand to us. Is it correction? We recognise God's mercy. Is it a false accusation? We remember our sins and are glad to suffer something for them. Is another preferred to us? We deserve no better. Are our talents and capabilities ignored? It is but as we deserve. Are we praised? Of ourselves we do not deserve it. Therefore there is no danger of our resting in it, or of seeking it.

Are we promoted to office? We know that we cannot do any good of ourselves, and we will come to the task with

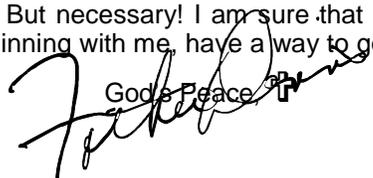
due humility. Thus there will be little danger that we will obscure the vision of God for others by putting ourselves in his place. Likewise, a fitting respect for those under us will never be wanting, and yet we will always remember that we represent God, and we will never allow others to overlook or forget this. Are we removed from office? No one is less surprised than ourselves. There is no repining, no envy of our successor, no blaming of our superiors or those over whom we had authority. No matter in what situation we find ourselves, the principle holds good and answers the question as to how we should act.

In time of trial especially we will find this "unprofitable-servant" principle of use and value. We said earlier that there is only one real test of humility, and that is our acceptance of humiliation. By this we mean those humiliations which are imposed on us from outside, not those we freely undertake ourselves. These latter have their own use, but we can so easily deceive ourselves with them. We are so selfish, and our ego is so averse to real humiliation and so adroit at escaping from it that there is great danger of feeding self-love in undertaking humiliations of our own choosing. We may be willing to tell ourselves, or even tell others, that we are the greatest of sinners. But let someone else accuse us of the merest peccadilloes and we soon see how humble we really are.

No! Infinitely safer and surer, if we accept them aright, are those providential visitations in our lives which humble us effectively—failure, mistakes, misjudgment, loss of reputation, being passed over, being ignored, perhaps even sin into which God may allow us to fall to show us what we are. In all these matters nature's response will be to assert that we are right, that we are misjudged, that the accusation is false, that we could not help it. To accept them as loving visitations of God—the Lord hath bid it, and who shall dare say why?—we need faith and humility. Faith to remind us that they come from God, however much he may use secondary causes, and humility to remind us that we deserve them and more.

Humility, and it alone, will answer to humiliation: We are unprofitable servants. To accept the fact that we have failed, despite our best efforts, that our work is brought to nothing by a misguided successor, that our motives in all we did are questioned, that those for whom we have worked have turned against us, that sickness or perhaps old age face us with years of apparent uselessness or inactivity—to accept all these without complaint demands great humility. Always to think that whatever comes to us is better than our just deserts, never to say that fate has been unkind, that Providence has dealt hardly with us, above all never to say that we deserved better—that is humility.

Tough stuff! How much of this I must admit I do not do, or do well! I suppose if we can begin to understand the ideas taught by Father Kinsella, we can begin to follow the Lord, and the example of the saints, more closely. Saints like Thomas Aquinas defined humility as the "foundation" for all other virtues—the "rock" on which all others are built. Saints like Teresa of Avila called it the "essential virtue." She stressed the three things we all need: Humility, humility, and humility. The instruction being given here is that all of this is not optional, but necessary. A bit scary! But necessary! I am sure that each of us then, and I'll say beginning with me, have a way to go!

God's Peace 



ARCHDIOCESE  
of  
NEW YORK

Presents

SPEAK  
UP!

NEW YORK  
CATHOLIC  
YOUTH DAY

OCTOBER 19, 2019  
Westchester County Center

2019 SULLIVAN COUNTY  
LIFE CHAIN



STANDING TOGETHER  
FOR LIFE  
AND AN END TO ABORTION  
AND ALL ISSUES AGAINST LIFE...

THIS IS A NATIONAL MOVEMENT...  
A PEACEFUL PROTEST...  
YOU ARE INVITED TO BE PART OF THIS.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2019  
\*Rain or Shine\*

BROADWAY, MONTICELLO 2pm - 3:30pm  
In front of Church of St. Peter

\*Bring lawn chairs as needed...  
Clergy most welcome!

for info call: Jane (845) 292-4647

**Attention please!**

**Please read the insert in this week's  
bulletin on the findings of the  
independent review of the NY  
Archdiocese abuse response.**



A Retreat Experience for teens  
that will Empower, Challenge and Inspire You  
to Be The Hands and Feet of Christ.

Sponsored by Pallottine Teenage Federation  
October 11-13, 2019

Join us at the Vincent Pallotti Retreat Center in  
Monroe, NY.

Cost: \$130 per person

More information & Registration forms can be found at  
[www.pallottineteenagefederation.org](http://www.pallottineteenagefederation.org)

**Public Square Rosary Crusade**



Join thousands praying for our  
nation

Where: Saint Peter's to Sullivan  
County Court House, Monticello

When: Saturday, October 12 from  
12:00-1:00

For more information call:  
Jane Cuttita (845)292-4647  
or  
St. Peter's Church (845)794-5577

**1st Way Life Center**

Is having a 10th Anniversary Party  
And You're Invited !!!

**Where ?** Albella's Restaurant  
50 Jefferson St. Monticello, NY

**When?** October 20, 2019 2-6 pm

**Why?** To put Fun in Fundraiser!

Buffet Dinner & Dancing

Gifts, Raffles & Surprises

\$50.00 per person

Reserve your place, return bottom portion with check by

Oct. 13th payable to: 1st Way Life Center

PO Box 1168 Monticello, NY 12701

Name----- # attending-----check amt.-----

# Mass Intentions

## Saturday, October 5<sup>th</sup>

SFX 4:30pm -Septemberr Totten & Family  
Requested by Her Friends

## Sunday, October 6<sup>th</sup>

OLL 8:30am -Barbara Walter  
Requested by The Guttzeit Family

SFX 11:00am -President Donald Trump  
Requested by A Voter

## Monday, October 7<sup>th</sup>

NO MASS

## Tuesday, October 8<sup>th</sup>

SFX 6:30pm -Our Parish Family

## Wednesday, October 9<sup>th</sup>

SFX 8:30am -Our Parish Family

## Thursday, October 10<sup>th</sup>

SFX 6:30pm -Our Parish Family

## Friday, October 11<sup>th</sup>

SFX 8:30am -Alfonso & Aida Guzman  
Requested by Peter & Elsa Grosser

## Saturday, October 12<sup>th</sup>

SFX 4:30pm -Our Parish Family

## Sunday, October 13<sup>th</sup>

OLL 8:30am -Our Parish Family  
SFX 11:00am -Gladys Smith & F.J. Smith III  
Requested by The Smith Family

# Readings

Habakkuk 1:2-3; 2:2-4  
2 Timothy 1:6-8, 13-14  
Luke 17:5-10

# Collection

September 28/29, 2019

## 1<sup>st</sup> Collection

St. Francis Xavier	\$836.00
Our Lady of the Lake	\$358.00

## Total

**\$1,194.00**

*Thank you!*



# TRICKY TRAY fundraiser

**The St. Francis Xavier Outreach Program is holding a Tricky Tray fundraising event on**

**Saturday, October 19 at 12:00pm**  
(after the free 2 Frank's Cafe' Lunch)  
in the St. Francis Xavier Parish Hall.

*Please consider donating a tricky tray, which can be dropped at the rectory office or at either parish church before or after the Saturday and Sunday Masses.*

Questions can be directed to either:  
Linda Smith (845)252-7547  
Barbara Drollinger (845)252-3224

## Please Pray for our Parish Family

**For the Sick:** Christina Hubert, Lydia Newton, Jane Cutita, Bonnie Feeler, Judy Tufo, Connie Moser, Elizabeth Stoddard, Pam Kocher, Vincent Gentile, Kathleen Jamieson, Peter O'Leary Jr., Jessica Hartley

**For the Deceased:** Mary Weiden, Muriel Maers, Stan Rembish, Eugene Harrison, Terry McCarthy, John Werner, Lillian Yacino, James Lingle, Patricia Lyons, Peggy Lee Romano, Emory Robert Kaub, Muriel F. Edwards, Andrew Casimir, Barbara Walter, John Hartley, Eileen Dempsey, Christopher Kells

**For those Serving in the Military:** Justin Warnick, Joseph A. Choffo IV, Carmen Hamstrom, Joseph R. Gonzalez