There But for the Grace of God Go I

By Fr. Stephen Rehrauer, CSsR

In Catholic school I learned to repeat the above phrase often. It expresses gratitude for having been spared the sufferings we see others endure. It arouses compassion, moving us to help others shoulder their burdens. If the suffering of others is the result of their own wrong behavior, it teaches humility and solidarity, reminding us that were it not for God's help, we might have fallen into the same wrong patterns of life, bringing similar disgrace upon ourselves.

Lately it seems this phrase has been replaced by a pair of more pernicious ones: "Thank God I'm better off than they are" and "Thank God they finally got what was coming to them."

Studies show that we tend not to help others if we believe they have been the cause of their own suffering. In responding to those whose lives have been ravaged by alcoholism, drug abuse, prostitution, poverty, hunger, AIDS, rape, violent crime, and murder, it matters a great deal to almost everyone whether we see that person as "deserving" or "undeserving" of their fate. When we believe someone has been innocently harmed, it elicits sympathy, which motivates us to help. On the other hand, if we believe that the other "deserves" what is happening as the result of something he or she did, then the emotion elicited is righteous indignation—even satisfaction—at seeing cosmic justice occur, and we are motivated to deliberately withhold assistance. This tendency seems to be very common across all cultures. And then there's Jesus.

Turning away from another's pain, regardless of its causes, is hardly the moral response the Gospel of Jesus Christ teaches us. Sooner or later we all make wrong choices in our lives. Sometimes our wrong choices flow from a flaw in ourselves; sometimes we are overwhelmed by a situation and really can't see any other way out of the mess we are in; sometimes we just want something so much that we are willing to do whatever it takes to get it. Sin is a constant part of the human condition. Saint Paul reminds his readers constantly that all are sinners, all deserve condemnation, all stand in need of forgiveness, and all need Christ to help them. If God treated us the way we are tempted to treat one another, offering compassion only to those who "deserve" it, there would be no hope for any of us.

God's justice is mercy. Grace is offered to the sinner precisely as a sinner: one who deserves condemnation and punishment through his own fault but who receives instead compassion and forgiveness. The sinner who returns causes rejoicing in heaven. It is precisely when we have been the cause of our own mess, and *because* we have been the cause of our own mess, that God draws near to us most powerfully and most lovingly in Christ, who is help for the helpless. This is God's *Caritas*. This is the God Jesus came to reveal.

If God … offered compassion only to those who "deserve" it, there would be no hope for any of us.

PRAYER

Holy and compassionate God, teach us the freedom of humility, the gratification of surrender, the true joy of compassion for others. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

The Redemptorists

WEEKDAY READINGS

August 29–September 3

Monday, The Passion of St. John the Baptist:
1 Cor 2:1–5 / Mk 6:17–29

Tuesday, Weekday:
1 Cor 2:10b–16 / Lk 4:31–37

Wednesday, Weekday:
1 Cor 3:1–9 / Lk 4:38–44

Thursday, Weekday:
1 Cor 3:18–23 / Lk 5:1–11

Friday, Weekday:
1 Cor 4:1–5 / Lk 5:33–39

Saturday, St. Gregory the Great:
1 Cor 4:6b–15 / Lk 6:1–5

Bringing Home the Word
August 28, 2022

© 2022 Liguori Publications, a ministry of the Redemptorists. One Liguori Drive, Liguori, MO 63057. Scripture quotations in this publication are from the *New American Bible*, revised edition, © 2010, 1991, 1986, 1970 Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, Washington, DC. The Pope Francis quotation is used with permission and copyright © 2022 *Libreria Editrice Vaticana*. All rights reserved. 1-800-325-9521. Liguori.org.

Bringing Home the Word

Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time (C)
August 28, 2022

The Power of Humility

by Fr. Mark Haydu, LC

Humility isn't a popular virtue! In fact, among the Greeks and the Romans it wasn't considered a virtue at all. In a list of 147 wise maxims, dated six centuries before Christ, humility wasn't even mentioned. For the ancient Greek or Roman, honor was more of a goal than humility.

Yet the Jewish faith values humility, as illustrated in Old Testament texts like the one we hear today. The humble strength of conducting affairs quietly and justly makes one more loved—more so than someone who gives many gifts. Parents should reflect on this.

As Christians following a Savior who stooped to wash feet, humility is not only recommended but becomes the ideal. Let the first be last. Let the greatest be the servant. Humility is simply living the truth of who we are. We are each both great and insignificant. We can and should use all our knowledge and strength to plant seeds for a better world. But only God gives the growth.

We are creatures and not the Creator. We don't make the rules of life or define right and wrong. We discover, accept, and embrace these laws. A healthy awareness of our limitations doesn't enslave us but sets us free. A humble knowledge of the truth is empowering.

We are amazingly talented people, each uniquely loved and gifted by God. Each of us can achieve, and should strive for, the greatness offered us. Humility makes one capable of true and lasting greatness—just look at Christ.

Humility is simply living the truth of who we are. We are each both great and insignificant.

Sunday Readings

Sirach 3:17–18, 20, 28–29

My son, conduct your affairs with humility, and you will be loved more than a giver of gifts.

Hebrews 12:18–19, 22–24a

[Y]ou have approached…the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem,…and Jesus, the mediator of the new covenant….

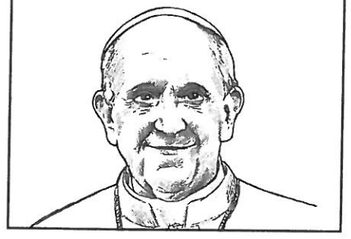
Luke 14:1, 7–14

[Jesus said,] "For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted."

A Word from Pope Francis

Without humility we will never find God: we will find ourselves. Because a person who has no humility has no horizon in front of him or her. They only have a mirror: they look at themselves. Let us ask the Lord to break this mirror so we can look beyond, to the horizon, where He is.

General Audience, December 22, 2021



REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- How well do I know myself—both my strengths and my weaknesses?
- Do I see everything as a gift and respond with humility?

Parish of St. Vincent De Paul

"We as a community rooted in the Catholic faith seek to imitate Christ's Examples of love and service to others and spread the light of our faith to others."

Parish phone: 509-234-2262 **Aug. 28, 2022 website: stvincentconnell.org**

Fr. Miguel A. Gustavo Ruiz Juárez 509-318-0295 gruiz@dioceseofspokane.org

Deacon Arturo Biebrich parish phone: 509-222-9223 after 5 pm only

22nd Sunday Ordinary Time	23rd Sunday Ordinary Time
Mass Aug.28, 2022	**Mass** Sept. 4, 2022
Lector: Stacy Kniveton	**Lector: Brandy Ferguson**
EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS:	**EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS:**
Mary Grassl	Stacy Ferguson
Greeters & Presentation of Gift	**Greeters & Presentation of Gift**
James & Tiffany Freitag	Leo & Elida Fernández
Altar Servers:	**Alter Servers:**
Giselle & Aubriel Shawver	Mackenzie P. & Angie V.

Pope's Prayer intentions:

Small Businesses

We pray for small and medium sized businesses; in the midst of economic and social crisis, may they find ways to continue operating, and serving their communities.

Mass Schedule

Sunday: 8:00 a.m. @ St. Paul's in Eltopia
10:30 a.m. @ St. Vincent's (English)
12:00 p.m. @ St. Vincent's (Spanish)
Saturday: 7:00 p.m. @ San Juan Diego (Spanish)
Wednesday: 8:00 a.m. Adoration @ St. Vincent's
8:30 a.m. Mass @ St. Vincent's
Confessions: Wednesdays 6:30 pm @ St. Vincent's
Saturday 4:30 pm @ San Juan Diego

Church Secretary: Elida Fernández - secSt.vincent2015@gmail.com

Tues, Weds. Thurs 12:00 pm – 3:30 pm

Elida can be reached at 509-318-0917 - 12 – 3:30 pm on Tues. Weds. Thurs.

Prayer Chain: Call Carolyn Nordhus @ 509-234-5972

Breezeway Calendar: If you have any parish events or meetings that you would like on the all parish calendar that is posted in the breezeway please contact Marla Goade @ 539-5354 wmgoade73@gmail.com

Weekly Bulletin: Please email Elida Fernández secSt.vincent2015@gmail.com by WEDNESDAY EVENINGS for information to be included in the upcoming Sunday bulletin.
Elida can be reached at 509-318-0917

Website: To add or send information, pictures or news to the website please email Jaeniffer Kaiser @ jaeniffer2002@hotmailcom

LIKE our Facebook page to get updated posts and information about our parish. You can also see photos of all the activities that have been happening. If you want to post church happenings on Facebook please **email Onna Pollock at olpollock@yahoo.com**

UPCOMING EVENTS MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Altar Flowers
Sept. – Altar Society
Oct. – Guadalupanas

CONFESSIONS
This Wednesday the 31
@ St. Vincent Parish

Wednesday High School Religious Ed
Still accepting applications for youth
Contact: Elida Fernandez for more information @ 318-0917

Request of Sacrament Certificates
Please be advised, there is a 10-day minimum needed to search for records. Please be timely in your request of a new certificate.

ANNUAL ONLINE TEST FOR SAFE ENVIRONMENT
All volunteers need to take the test. If you do not have a computer or cell phone to take the test please contact Elida Fernandez @ 509-318-0917

THOUGHT OF THE WEEK FROM THE PASTORAL PATTERNS BY JS PAULISH CO:

Has the hunger for status and influence in the world around you endangered your life as a Christian? Does it make you a better person to be chosen first for a team or some other honor? Why or why not?

STEWARDSHIP

"Rather, when you hold a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind; blessed indeed will you be because of their inability to repay you." Luke 14:13-14

One of the main principles of living a stewardship lifestyle is to give without expecting anything in return. This is difficult for some to comprehend in our "consumerist" culture that we live in. This is even difficult for many parish communities that have become heavily dependent on parish fundraising events to support the mission and ministry of their local parish. Generally speaking, at a parish fundraiser, you pay money and receive something in return, it's just a financial transaction. This is opposed to our parish offertory at Holy Mass, where you unite your sacrifice with Jesus', renewing our covenant relationship with Him.

Thank you for your generous Weekly contributions

July 31, 2022	Aug. 7, 2022
10:30 am - $1726.00	10:30 am - $1577.13
12:00 pm – $402.85	12:00 pm – $456.76
Basin city – $537.00	Basin City – $613.00

Registration Closing Today
Kinder- 8th grade
Sunday program
Final day for registration is Sunday the 28th of Aug.
For more information contact Enrique Lopez 509-431-2272

FR. GUS'S SCHEDULE FOR 2 WEEKS: Aug. 28, 2022 - Sept. 11, 2022

Monday Aug. 29:
Fr. Gus' Day off
Tues. Aug. 30:
No Confessions @ Eltopia
No Mass @ Eltopia
7:00 pm Parish Council @ Basin City
Wed. Aug. 31:
8:00 am Adoration @ Connell
8:30 am Mass @ Connell
6:30 pm Confessions @ Connell
Thurs. Sept. 1:
10:00 am Adoration @ Eltopia
10:30 am Mass @ Eltopia
5:30 pm Parish Council @ Eltopia
Fri. Sept. 2:
8:00 am Prison Ministry @ Connell
Sat Sept. 3:
8:00 am Retreat / Catechists @ Othello
No Confessions @ Basin City
7:00 pm Mass @ Basin City
Sun. Sept. 4: Mass
8:00 am Mass @ Eltopia
10:30 am Mass @ Connell
12:00 pm Mass @ Connell

Please keep Fr. Gus in your daily prayers.

Monday Sept. 5:
Fr. Gus' Day off
Tues. Sept. 6:
4:00 pm Confessions @ Eltopia
5:00 pm Mass @ Eltopia
7:00 pm marriage Prep @ Eltopia
Wed. Sept. 7:
8:00 am Adoration @ Connell
8:30 am Mass @ Connell
6:30 pm Confessions @ Connell
Thurs. Sept. 8:
Fr. Gus @ Spokane
No Adoration @ Eltopia
No Mass @ Eltopia
Fri. Sept. 9:
8:00 am Prison Ministry @ Connell
Sat Sept. 10:
11:00 am Presentation Mass @ Basin City
No Confessions @ Basin City
7:00 pm Mass @ Basin City
Sun. Sept. 4: Mass
8:00 am Mass @ Eltopia
10:30 am Mass @ Connell
12:00 pm Mass @ Connell