

29<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time  
Humility

The last part of Today's Gospel (Mark 10:42 -45) speaks about humility: "the last shall be first and the first shall be last!"

We are here to serve others, not just ourselves – "Humility"

The best definition I have ever heard of humility is this: "Humility does not mean you think less of yourself; it means you think of yourself less often."

Another definition of humility is: "Living with another's imperfections"

I didn't say ignoring or tolerating but living with another's faults and failures: in your own personal world, in your marriage or family life and where are you working.

Is love and humility a sign of strength or weakness? I once had the opportunity to speak at the Ohio Penitentiary (they were a captive audience). A prisoner responded to me that in the penitentiary, love is a sign of weakness.

Or perhaps, to ask another way, are these virtues of humility and love important and practiced in your life?

Here is an examination of conscience:

Humility is being able to say, "I'm sorry, my fault, please forgive me."

Humility is being able to overlook another's faults.

Humility is being silent at times. (Remember this acronym – M.O.M. –Mortification of the mouth)

Humility is not having the last and final word in every argument or discussion.

Humility is not continuing an argument.

Humility is not having to be a winner in each argument.

Humility is a choice!

If you have a bruised ego, you most probably are a humble person.

When I think of pride, I think of the word ego – E.G.O. = Edging Out God.

Ask yourself how often because of your pride, you didn't say to your spouse, your children, your mom or dad, your best friend:

I need you, I love you, I'm proud of you,..... or  
You are a godsend; you are a true blessing to me;  
You are a true friend; I don't know what I would have done without you;  
You don't know how much you have helped me;  
You have been my guardian angel.

When I think of humility, I think of these ideas.....

Character is what we are.  
Reputation is what other people think we are.  
Integrity is what we hope we are (or possess) and.....  
Pride is our own opinion of the matter.

You may have a humbling experience today, or during these coming holiday months!

In some humbling experience, what will you say or do?  
How will you respond (positive), not how will you react (negative word)

There are 2 new prayers that are circulating:

- 1) Lord, give me the grace to keep my big mouth shut!
- 2) Lord, help me to be not what I am; Lord, help me to be what I think I am!

I would like to conclude this homily on humility by saying: I am Fr. Lavelle and I approve this message!

Amen!