

JULY 14, 2021
Wednesday of the 15th Week in Ordinary Time
Matthew 11: 25-27

“GOD GIVES GRACE TO THE HUMBLE.”

St. Francis of Assisi was considered one of the models of humility and service. He was one of the saints of the gutter, possessed the virtue of humility ‘perfectly’. According to him: “God is the source of every good thing, gift, talent, event, experience and so on. We are not the sources of our selves, the originators of our own existence, but beneficiaries of the free and gratuitous love of God. Therefore, when we accomplish great things, when we do good works, when there is something in which we might like to take pride, we are admonished to recall the true origin of that goodness.”¹ Pride clouded our relationship to God and lead us away from Him because we focus more on ourselves. It brings us to coldness of heart and stubbornness of will because pride is the disproportionate love of oneself at the expense of others and the overstated assessment of one’s learning, value or importance and putting others less, nobody or nothing in our eyes.

Our gospel is teaching us the importance of humility in order to know, love and serve the Lord. It is only with humility that we can see and be with God. Only those who are like ‘infants’ that we can see the greatest good, that is, God without measure or pretense and we acknowledge our belief, dependence and trust in the One who is all Good and Trustworthy. Only those who are humble can be open to His will and guidance, and understand God’s ways and not our own ways. Do not boast of what we have and possess, who we are and our ability or capacity. They are not ours, they are gifts given not only for us but for those people in need and to give glory to God.

St. Francis further said: “In what, then, can you boast? Even if you were so skillful and wise that you possessed all knowledge, knew how to interpret every kind of language, and to

¹ www.huffpost.com

scrutinize heavenly matters with skill: you could not boast in these things. Even if you were more handsome and richer than everyone else, and even if you worked miracles so that you put demons to flight: all these things are contrary to you; nothing belongs to you; you can boast in none of these things.”²

My sisters and brothers, only in humility that we can understand and follow the Lord. Those who are boastful only recognize that he/she is above all because he/she focusses on himself/herself needing nothing from others even to the Supreme Being. So, let us approach the Lord in this Eucharist like ‘infants’ with humble heart and trust so that He may revealed to us His goodness and gracious will. Let us always remember as the Epistle of St. James said: “God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble.”³

² ibid

³ James 4:6 Holy Bible NRSVCE Canadian Bible Society