

YOUR PLACE AT THE TABLE

Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

Humility is a virtue that has become misunderstood and somewhat trampled upon in modern culture. Some in our society tend to label a lack of humility as confidence. Others see any hint of bravado or pride in one's abilities as distasteful or pompous. The extreme positions can easily encourage people to gravitate to a position of feeling less than or more than others around them. Neither position is healthy, and God does not call us to either form of humility. God calls us to a humility where we understand that who we are and what we have is a blessing from Him and that He is God and we are not.

There is a theme one can notice in some Evangelical and Catholic circles of seeing ourselves as so lowly that we have little value outside of God. This denies the fact that God created us in His image and in a fearful and wonderful manner. The value of every human life is profound, and there is intrinsic value in all of us. For those who seek to follow Christ, we have also been made new creations in Him through our baptism. Yes, we are imperfect and subject to sin, but that sin is never greater than the grace of God.

In the third chapter of Ecclesiasticus, the prophet states, "Humble yourself the more, the greater you are, and you will find favour with God." These words do not suggest we are to see ourselves as nobodies, but instead challenges us to see that true favour does not lie in earthly greatness, but instead with the favour of God. We are who we are because of God. Throughout Scripture, we do not find the premise that we are all equally blessed. However, like in Jesus' parable of the talents, God's favour lies in what we do with what we have been given. In fact, as Ecclesiasticus points out, those who have been given more — and find themselves with greater status because of it — need even greater humility.

When Jesus is speaking at the dinner of a Pharisee in Luke 14, he addresses the issue of those who are nearly void of humility. Here the issue is not seeing one's self as worthless, but instead seeing one's self as exalted above all others. Jesus watched as those present at a dinner party jockeyed for positions at the table. He begins explaining to them the need to be careful with where one sits because someone else of greater status may make them move, and that could be a source of great embarrassment. Before Jesus completes his lesson for those present, he suggests that future dinner parties should not include only those who jockey for status, but the true guests of honour should include those who have no means of paying back the favour: the poor, crippled, lame, and blind. These are the ones who God favours for they have no earthly status. For them, humility is a natural by-product of their position in life. For those who are currently at the party, humility is a virtue they must learn and cultivate in their lives.

I am reminded of a man of advanced years I encountered many years ago. He explained that he had spent his entire life trying to be humble. For him, that meant he was nothing special. However, now in his later years, he realized that his thinking was wrong. Humility did not mean that he had no real value, but instead should have meant he was to offer gratitude to God for making him a wonderfully unique human being and that the pathway to profoundly honouring God was to use what he had been given in life for God's glory. A common social media quote says, "Humility is not thinking less of yourself; it is thinking of yourself less." We would do well to add, "and think of God more."

In this life, we are not to hold our heads down in false humility. We are sons and daughters of a king. We are members of a royal priesthood. We have been created uniquely and been given many gifts so we may honour that king. However, it is when we forget that all we are and will be is tied to the One who created us, we place ourselves into the position of becoming our own god. We become like those at the dinner party, comparing ourselves to others and strategizing how to rise higher in standing.

When we are considering where we stand in this world, perhaps we would do well to heed the words of many parents: "Be sure to choose your friends wisely." We can spend time with those who bring us down and make us feel worthless. We can spend time with those who prop us up and inflate our egos, making us in greater need of humility. Or we can spend time with "the poor, the crippled, the blind, and the lame." God has already chosen to offer them the seat of honour at the table. It would seem prudent for all of us to spend more of our time in such good company.

HUMBLE
YOURSELF

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Contacts: Fr Fachtna McCarthy, Administrator, Fr Patrick Claffey C.C. Fr Josip Levaković C.C., Deacon Greg Pepper Tel 01-6600075

Streaming and Website www.stmaryshaddingtonroad.ie email: info@stmaryshaddingtonroad.ie

Child Protection: <http://www.stmaryshaddingtonroad.ie/ministries/child-protection/> also www.csp.dublindiocese.ie

Streaming also at www.churchservices.tv/haddingtonroad

Funded by Living the Joy of the Gospel Campaign

ANNUAL COLLECTION TODAY

In his letter in support of this year's appeal for the social support agency of the Archdiocese, Archbishop Diarmuid writes: "For nearly 80 years now Crosscare has delivered services to respond to many unmet needs in our society. It cares for young people whose voices may be unheard, for those who may be hungry, or without a home. Day by day, more and more people experience the dedicated support of Crosscare when they are welcomed in a spirit of respect, dignity and love. They are met as equals with the belief that everyone is created in the image and likeness of God...."

On behalf of the staff volunteers and vulnerable adults in Crosscare, I would like to thank you for your generous support over the years. I know that all who work at Crosscare take their work and responsibility very seriously and I urge you to support them once again in this appeal."

In today's more prosperous Ireland, Crosscare is still called upon to help thousands of vulnerable people, both individuals and families in difficult situations.

Some of the work of the past year includes:

175,326 hot meals served in our cafes & residences.

14,000 hampers provided as short term food support.

986 people accommodated in six homeless services.

Several projects for your people in challenging situations.

944 addictions counselling sessions for **117** people.

455 parents and **400** students attended drug info workshops.

5000+ households from **125** countries used the information and advocacy service. Of those attending **1400+** households were either homeless or at risk of homelessness.

4,184 young people were supported by Youth Services in Dublin and Wicklow.

670 tonnes of food and non-food items were (donated by manufacturers, distributors and growers) as well as from parish communities were redistributed.

We made **61,180** phone calls to vulnerable people.

Inspired by the example and teachings of Jesus Christ, Crosscare has:

A **VISION** of a society where all people have the opportunity to fulfil their potential.

A **MISSION** to provide innovation and relevant service to those most in need

The Haddington Road parish contribution in 2017 was €2,870 and in 2018, €3,040.

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY
TODAY**



Today, every academic, professional discipline—psychology, anthropology, history, the various sciences, social studies, art, and business—recognizes change, development, and some kind of evolving phenomenon. But in its search for the Real Absolute, much of Christian theology made one fatal mistake: It imagined that any notion of God had to be unchanging, an "unmoved mover," as Aristotelian philosophy called it.

There's little evidence of a rigid God in the biblical tradition or the image of Trinity—where God is seen as an active verb more than a substantive noun. But many Christians seem to have preferred a stable notion of God as an old white man, sitting on a throne—much like the Greek god Zeus (whose name became the Latin word for God or "Deus")—a critical and punitive spectator to a creation that was merely a mechanical clock of inevitable laws and punishments, ticking away until Doomsday.

We need a new way of thinking about the universe and our place in it. - *Richard Rohr*

IN MEMORIAM

6pm: Mary Finean (Recently deceased)

11am: Jennie Orford

Masses on 7th/8th Sept 2019

11am: Bernie Guerin (Anniversary)

Masses and Confession

Sundays: Vigil, 6pm (Saturday), 9.30am, 11am, 5pm

Croatian Community Mass 6.30pm

Daily masses 10am and 12.40pm, Saturday 10am only

-**Rosary** daily after 10am mass

Adoration Blessed Sacrament, Weds 10.30-12.40

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

1st Collection: €1,055

Share Collection: €825

THANK YOU