

After the Heart of Jesus ...

*Humble yourself the more, the greater you are,
and you will find favor with God.*

Sirach 3:18

Jesus often speaks about the virtue of humility, whether in calling people to childlike faith or by telling his disciples to choose to serve and be the lesser rather than desiring worldly greatness and to be served.

Humility, as a concept, however, is an often misunderstood quality in people. We can sometimes get tricked into thinking that humility is the ability to demean and belittle ourselves, to grovel and to act as though we are weak and powerless. Unfortunately, humility can sometimes border on a masochistic unworthiness. Some people beat themselves up emotionally and physically because they feel as though they are good for nothing.



But that's not the gospel message about humility -- that we're supposed to go about belittling ourselves and acting weak and powerless. True humility has very little if anything to do with that. Humility is the gift of being able to recognize ourselves for who we are -- to see the truth. Humility has always been one of the characteristics of great people. If we really see the truth, then we will recognize that none of us are any more or any less important in God's eyes than anyone else.

Humility allows us to see the true source of our giftedness, our talent, as being God and not ourselves. So there can be no bragging up ourselves when the credit really belongs elsewhere with God. In this way, others can also see us for who we are -- not by how much we do -- not by how much money we make -- not by what status or position we hold -- not by how talented or intelligent or athletic we are -- not by how much power we can yield. But we will see ourselves for who we are. With the gift of humility we will see each other as loved and lovable, as sister and brother, and as part of the family of God.

Humility is a gift which affects our approach to others. If we are humble and can recognize the truth, then we will appreciate and respect others and we will attune our ears to their wisdom and their advice. With the gift of humility we will see that Jesus is in each person's heart, and we will search Jesus out in each person we meet.

Our St. Walter Parish Community Fest last Sunday was another great success. Thank you to those who set up the campus, cooked the food, worked Bingo, ran the rides, worked the games, staffed the booths at the ministry fair, washed cars, cleaned up afterwards, and all the jobs in between. It is always great to experience the strong feeling and sense of family in such a large parish as St. Walter. A special thanks to Karen Campe of youth ministry and the Moms & Tots group for their excellent job in coordinating the fest.

Thank
You!



Labor Day Weekend traditionally marks the end of the summer season. It also affords us the opportunity to reflect on the meaning of our labor, our work. Our work can allow us to express our creativity and ingenuity, our productivity and intellect. Our attitudes we bring to work should also be a reflection of our values and faith. Faith helps us to understand that we are not the work, and ultimately the work is not ours. God is in charge of it all. Please spend some time this weekend reflecting on the work God entrusts to you, and if you can join us for a special Labor Day Mass on Monday, at 9:00 AM.

The conversion of the narthex for greater use in welcoming and hospitality is nearly complete. The new tables will hopefully provide the invitation to gather, put down one's coffee or juice, and enjoy conversations with fellow parishioners. The new chairs provide greater flexibility for different setups from overflow seating at Mass to meetings to more social gatherings. The new glass window wall provides better soundproofing between the narthex and church, allows people to see into Church from the narthex all the time, and gives parents an alternative place to bring fussing children. We'll be meeting with the worship commission and some ushers next week to discuss ways of handling overflow seating situations at Mass.

As we reach out in love and service, may we humbly follow ...

After the Heart of Jesus!

Father John