

Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

There was this guy at a bar, just looking at his drink. He stays like that for a half hour. Then a big trouble-making truck driver steps next to him, takes the drink from the guy, & just drinks it all down. The poor man starts crying. The truck driver says, "Come on man, I was just joking. Here, I'll buy you another drink. I just can't stand to see a man cry." "No, it's not that," the man replies, wiping his tears, "This day is the worst of my life. First, I oversleep & I go in late to my office. My outraged boss fires me. When I leave the building to go to my car, I find out it was stolen. The police say they can do nothing. I get a cab to go home, & when I get out, I remember I left my wallet. The cab driver just drives away. I go inside my house where I find my dog ran away from me. I leave my home, come to this bar, & just when I was thinking about putting an end to my life, you show up & drink my poison."

Dear Friends,

Today I would like to start my homily with Pope Francis' quote. He said, "It is easy to point a finger at other people's faults and shortcomings, but we must learn to put ourselves in the other person's shoes."

We are all good people. As human beings we have our strengths and weaknesses. We need to increase our strengths and lessen our weaknesses.

Today's liturgy helps us to think of the goodness in us and acknowledges our faults and ego and helps us move forward to grow in holiness with God.

The first reading from the book of Sirach, teaches that what is inside us is revealed through our conversations – as the grain and husks are separated in a farmer's sieve, as the quality of the metal is revealed in the potter's fire, and as the size and quality of a tree's fruit reveal the care it has received from the planter.

The second reading from St. Paul to the Corinthians, Paul affirms that God gives us victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. He requests us to be firm, steadfast, and devoted to the work of the Lord.

In the Gospel today, Jesus brings the practical elements of our nature and how we need to be. In any failure, fault or personal error, our ego instinctively tries to excuse itself. It is the tactic of pride- which is not willing to admit its mistakes and always finding some ways to blame on circumstances or other people. Adam and Eve acted in this way after their sin. We need courage to acknowledge our faults. That is the first way to grow in holiness.

We can be known in three ways, like every good tree is known by the its fruit.

The Church has listed twelve fruits of the Holy Spirit. Here is that list:

1) Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Long-suffering. The first part has five fruits that have to do with your relation to God.

2) Goodness, Benevolence, Mildness, Fidelity. The next four fruits have to do with your attitude towards your neighbor.

3) Modesty, Continenence (self-control), Chastity. The last three fruits have to do with your attitudes about yourself.

Let us think about these statement: "Don't judge a book by its cover".

Today let us ask God's grace to acknowledge our own failures and appreciate the good in others.

Questions for reflections?

How many times have I appreciated others?

Why don't I look at myself deeply to understand myself better?

Am I able to bring the good out in me and in others?