

ICCH
International Catholic Community of Heidelberg
St. Michael
Kirschgartenstr. 35, 69126 Heidelberg Südstadt
06221/13020 – office Fr. Christof Heimpel

Today's readings:
Sirach 3:17-18, 20, 28-29| Hebrews
12:18-19, 22-24a| Luke 14:1, 7-14

Welcome Father John

August 28, 2016 – 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

***“For every one who exalts himself will be humbled,
but the one who humbles himself will be exalted.”***

In the Gospel Reading, Jesus censures people who take the seats of honor at a feast. Take the least honorable places, he tells them, and then the host can invite you to a more honorable place.

Jesus is rebuking the pride of those people who go for the honorable seats. But what is the solution to the problem of pride? If you race your friends to the least honorable seat because the reward for doing so is that you get one of the best seats, isn't this pride too?

So what is true humility?

Well, think about pride.

There is a childish kind of pride, of course, where you brag about your accomplishments while everybody else tries to be polite enough not to roll their eyes while you are talking.

And then there is also the grown-up version of that childish pride. A multi-millionaire who explains that he is a self-made man has this kind of pride. He has failed to notice all the gifts he has been given that have helped him get where he is. He thinks he himself is responsible for the good he has.

A more complicated kind of pride can be found in a person who knows that all his good comes from the grace of God. But he is sure that God has given such grace to him and not to his neighbors, because God knew that he, unlike his stupid worldly neighbors, would make good use of God's gifts.

Finally, the worst and most sophisticated kind of pride is found in the Pharisee who thanked God that he was not like other men, especially not like that sinner, the publican. The Pharisee knew that every good in him was a gift from God. But he was glad that he had God's gifts and that the publican didn't. The Pharisee liked looking down on the publican.

Here is what humility is, then. It is recognizing that every good in yourself is a gift from God and is meant to be given back to the Lord by being shared with others.

You can't get true humility by racing for the least honorable seat. If the least honorable seat is, in the Lord's view, the best place to be seated, then true humility requires your sharing it with others in gratitude to the Lord who gave it.



[Source: Eleonore Stump, http://liturgy.slu.edu/22OrdCo82816/reflections_stump.html |
picture: Caravaggio "Supper at Emmaus" via <http://saltandlighttv.org/blogfeed/getpost.php?id=71500&language=en>]

OUR PROGRAM FOR SEPTEMBER

September 4 – Mass as usual, no social gathering! >> moved to:

September 11 – We celebrate our 3rd anniversary as International Catholic Community of Heidelberg with a hopefully extended version of social gathering. Take some time to stay after Mass! ...and start thinking now about what special dish you would like to bring and how much you would like to help the preparation team ☺

September 18 – Confessions are thus moved to this Sunday – opportunity given before and after Mass.

If you would like to be added to our email list please send your contact information to:
infoheidelberg@internationalcatholiccommunity.com