



HOLY TRINITY PARISH

Hudson and Germantown, New York

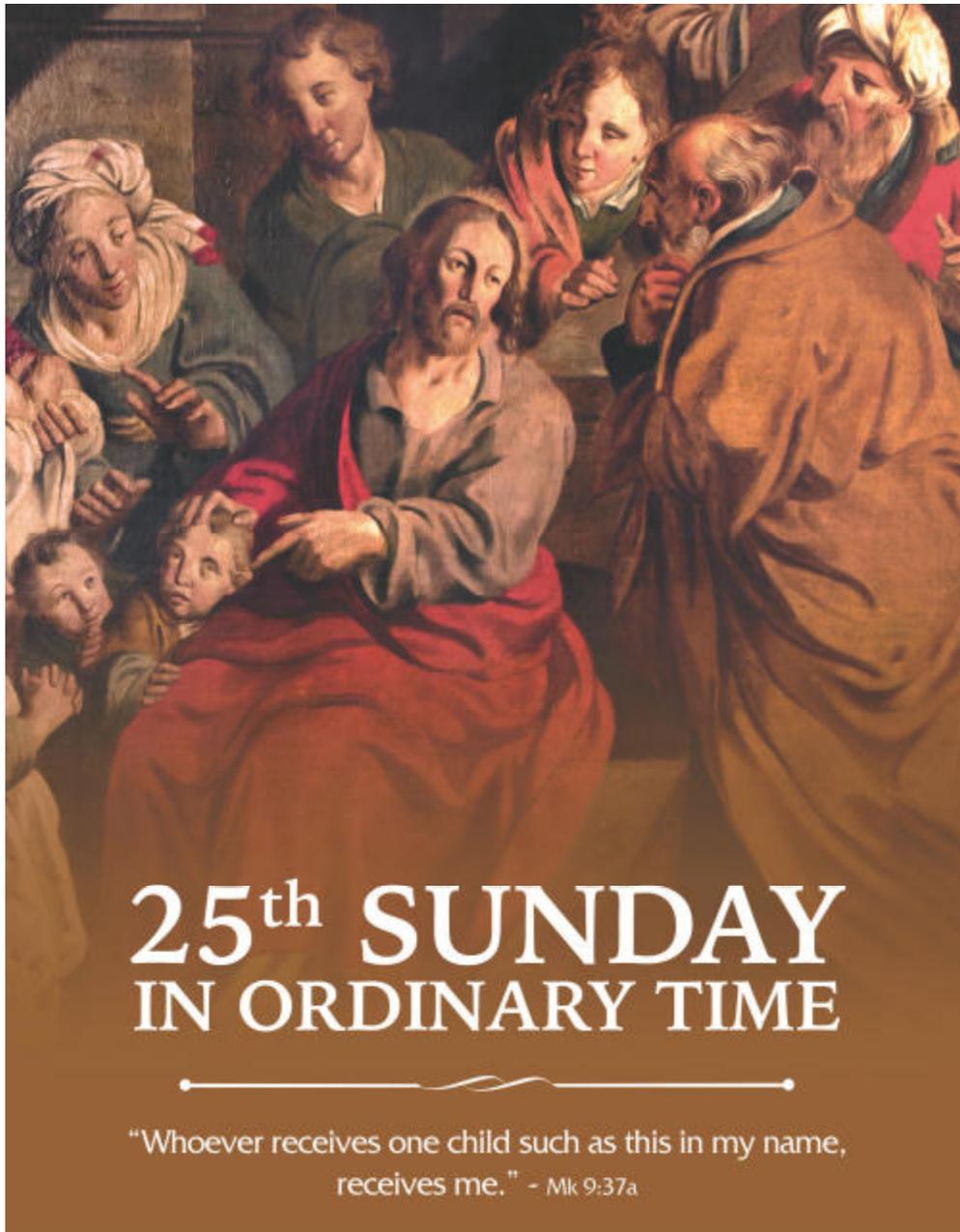
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September 19, 2021

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VERY REV. ANTHONY BARRATT, E.V.
Pastor

DEACON RICHARD WASHBURN
Deacon

REV. WINSTON BATH
Pastor Emeritus

WHO IS THE GREATEST? (25th SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME, YEAR B)

Many observers of nature and indeed of human nature note how there is an order and a hierarchy in things, whether this is something like the food chain or how any organization works. People often speak about the “natural order” of things. Thinking about this further, people also like to be recognized and acknowledged and concerns about one’s status or standing in a community can be very important indeed. A loss of status, or the experience of being ignored or snubbed, can be very difficult to bear.

In the Gospel for this weekend, Jesus speaks about such matters. One has to admire our Lord’s patience too! He is busy speaking about the very heart of his mission: to suffer, to die and to rise. And what are the disciples doing? They are arguing or perhaps even squabbling, about who is the greatest in the Kingdom! In response, Jesus patiently teaches the disciples (and us) about what it is to be great in the Kingdom...

Being overly focused (or obsessed!) about being the greatest, or about status, can so easily lead to an inflated sense of self-importance and to the sort of ambition that tramples down others to feed that ambition. This is why Jesus mentions “being the last of all and the servant of all.” Worse still, all this focus on status and importance can lead to a super ego and a lack of awareness or sensitivity to others. In extreme cases, people can see themselves as exceptions to every social convention, or even as above the law. This has certainly happened in the Church and in politics. What is more, I am sure that many of us have seen how such an attitude in a person sadly leads to the break-up of relationships and to many trials and difficulties.

Instead, our Lord teaches us about a virtue that can be the antidote to this. It is not perhaps a very popular virtue in our present culture and yet it is essential for human and spiritual growth. It is, of course, the virtue of *humility*. However, we need to be clear what this means. It is not a sort of weak or simpering attitude, or of having a very low self-esteem. Nor is it going around saying how terrible we are. Ironically, this can be a sort of pride; for when we pull ourselves down, then we can really be waiting for others to say how great we are!

So, what is this virtue of humility? If we look at the root of the word, we can easily grasp something of what humility might be. Our English word “humility” comes from the Latin word *humus* which means “of

the earth” or “earthed”. Humility, then, means being earthed: that is being grounded or realistic and honest about who we are. It means having a deep knowledge and understanding of both our gifts and our strengths, but also of our faults and failings. Humility also helps us to recognize that we are not self-made: we rely on others and above all on God! Once we are grounded like this, two great things can take place.

First, we can use our gifts and talents happily and in service of others. We are no longer looking over our shoulder to see who might be competing with us, or whether doing something will gain us more points and increase our status. Instead, it helps us to be generous to others and also thoughtful of others. We are still ambitious in a way; but this ambition is for using well the gifts that God has given to us. We understand that they are not our gifts in service of our ego, but rather that God has given us these gifts to be used in his service. This is how we “receive” others and so actually receive Jesus, as the Gospel tells us.

Secondly, it also means that we can make spiritual progress. With God’s help, we can build up our strengths, but also work on our weaknesses. Humility teaches us that we are not perfect and that we need to develop ways to overcome them and that we rely totally on God’s help to do all this. Sometimes too, we may feel that we have so many faults and failings. True humility will stop us being discouraged or giving up. Instead, it helps us to seek out God’s help and to know that God loves us and is with us. A great way to grow in humility is to take a minute or two at the end of each day and to make an *examination of conscience*. We can simply review the day and look at how we have used our gifts well and where we have fallen down (and then resolve to do better the next day). The examination always includes asking for God’s help in this project. Furthermore, we have what we might call the sacrament of humility: reconciliation or confession. It is a wonderful way to heal our faults and failings that in all humility we can see and then to be filled with God’s love and strength to try again to grow in goodness and in love.

Fr. Anthony



MASSES FOR THIS WEEK

**MONDAY: Sts. Andrew Kim Tae-gon & Paul Chong
Ha-sang and Companions (September 20)**

7:15 AM Alejandrina Rosario - Turoci Family
Pedro Rivera - Turoci Family
Mary Ann Gregory - Mark & Cathy French

TUESDAY: St. Matthew, Apostle & Evangelist (Sept. 21)

7:15 AM Sean French - Mark & Cathy French
Dolores Volk - Charles & Linda Meicht
Phil Kraft - Nettie Shallo

WEDNESDAY: Weekday (September 22)

7:15 AM Pedro Juan Rivera - Turoci Family
Mary Ann Gregory - Neil & Jane Meicht
Madaline DiCintio - David Ames

THURSDAY: St. Pius of Pietrelcina, Priest (Sept. 23)

7:15 AM Mary Ann Gregory - Dolly & Lee VanDeCarr
Joseph Konopka - Konopka Family
Mary Ann Gregory - Judy & Jenny McDonald

FRIDAY: Weekday (September 24)

7:15 AM Fernando Murcia - Margot Slutsky
Herbert & Adeline Blasewitz - Maxine Blasewitz Luvera &
Family
Mary Ann Gregory - Frieda Van Deusen

9:00 AM John Fellin, Sr. (B'day) - Liepshutz Family
(G'TWN)

26TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

SATURDAY VIGIL MASS: (September 25)

4:00 PM Florence, Bob & David - Rudolph Ponkos & Family
(HUD) John (Yazu) Hart - Bob & Janice Pendergast
John DeJoy - Beatrice Finn
Lawrence Shallo - Nettie Shallo
Bishop Capistran Heim - Anne

5:30 PM For the Living & Deceased of the Parish
(LNLTH)

SUNDAY MORNING MASS: (September 26)

9:00 AM Connie Randazzo - Family
(HUD) Mary Lou Washburn - Mark & Cathy French
Ann & Thomas Hart - James Hart
Robert Donnelly & Donnelly Family -
Jane & Edward Szafran

11:00 AM For the Living & Deceased of the Parish
(G'TWN)

CATHOLIC CHARITIES

The Aging Life Services Program of Columbia County is looking for volunteers who want to make a difference in the lives of older adults. Volunteers are needed to provide vital services such as transportation, grocery shopping and friendly visits.

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BAPTISM: Congratulations! If you would like to arrange preparations and a date for Baptism, please contact the Parish Office.

RCIA: For those enquiring about the Catholic Faith or wishing to complete their sacraments: welcome! Please contact the Parish Office and we will be very glad to help you further.

RECONCILIATION: Celebrated on Saturdays 2.30-3.45 pm in Hudson, before and after Masses in Germantown, or at anytime by appointment. (Note: it is best to call ahead first to check on the availability of a priest)

ANOINTING OF THE SICK: Priests regularly visit the hospitals, nursing homes and the homebound. Please do contact the Parish Office if you or someone you know is in need of the anointing of sick.

MARRIAGE: Congratulations! So that proper arrangements (paperwork, preparations etc.) can be made, please contact the Parish Office or Fr. Anthony at least six months before the desired date.

VOCATIONS: If you are considering a vocation to the priesthood, diaconate or religious life, please contact Fr. Anthony to share thoughts and prayers further.

Readings for the Week of September 19

Sunday: Wis 2:12, 17-20/Ps 54:3-4, 5, 6-8 [6b]
/Jas 3:16—4:3/Mk 9:30-37

Monday: Ezr 1:1-6/Ps 126:1b-2ab, 2cd-3, 4-5, 6 [3]
/Lk 8:16-18

Tuesday: Eph 4:1-7, 11-13/Ps 19:2-3, 4-5 [5]/Mt 9:9-13

Wednesday: Ezr 9:5-9/Tb 13:2, 3-4a, 4befghn, 7-8 [1b]
Lk 9:1-6

Thursday: Hg 1:1-8/Ps 149:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6a and 9b [cf. 4a]
/Lk 9:7-9

Friday: Hg 2:1-9/Ps 43:1, 2, 3, 4 [5]/Lk 9:18-22

Saturday: Zec 2:5-9, 14-15a/Jer 31:10, 11-12ab, 13 [cf. 10d]
/Lk 9:43b-45

Next Sunday: Nm 11:25-29/Ps 19:8, 10, 12-13, 14 [9a]
/Jas 5:1-6/Mk 9:38-43, 45, 47-48



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