

Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time



When asked why he ate and drank with tax collectors and sinners, Jesus replied, “Those who are healthy do not need a physician, but the sick do. I have not come to call the righteous to repentance but sinners” (Luke 5:31–32). As family members impacted by addiction, we know what it feels like to be sick at heart—to have our peace, trust, and joy consumed by worry and control. But through recovery, we are reminded daily that God’s mercy is for all of us. Returning humbly to Him, admitting our powerlessness, and becoming open to His will keeps us aligned with the hope His grace provides.

Conversion is not a one-time event but a daily journey. The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* gives us practical guidance: “Conversion is accomplished in daily life by gestures of reconciliation, concern for the poor, exercise and defense of justice and right, by admission of faults to one’s brethren, fraternal correction, revision of life, examination of conscience, spiritual direction, acceptance of suffering, endurance of persecution for the sake of righteousness. Taking up one’s cross each day and following Jesus is the surest way of penance” (1435).

Step 2—“Came to believe that a Power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity”—invites us to surrender our attempts to fix our loved ones and instead place our faith in God’s restoring power. When we cry out for help, He hears us. This Sunday’s first reading reminds us that God listens to the humble heart (Sirach 35:15–20):

*The Lord is a God of justice,
who knows no favorites.
Though not unduly partial toward the weak,
yet he hears the cry of the oppressed.
The Lord is not deaf to the wail of the orphan,
nor to the widow when she pours out her complaint.
The one who serves God willingly is heard;
his petition reaches the heavens.*

As we grow in faith, we learn that humility—not perfection—is the doorway to peace. We are culturally conditioned to hide our weaknesses and lead with our strengths, but in recovery we discover the opposite is true: our weakness connects us to others and to God. By admitting our fears and limitations, we open ourselves to grace.

This Sunday’s Gospel offers a vivid picture of humility and self-awareness (Luke 18:10–14):

*“Two people went up to the temple area to pray; one was a Pharisee and the other was a tax collector.
The Pharisee took up his position and spoke this prayer to himself,
'O God, I thank you that I am not like the rest of humanity—greedy, dishonest, adulterous—or even like this tax collector.
I fast twice a week, and I pay tithes on my whole income.'
But the tax collector stood off at a distance and would not even raise his eyes to heaven but beat his breast and prayed,
'O God, be merciful to me a sinner.'
I tell you, the latter went home justified, not the former;
for whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and the one who humbles himself will be exalted.”*

Like the tax collector, we learn that our peace is found not in comparison or judgment but in honesty and humility. When we stop taking others' inventories and look inward with compassion, we begin to experience real transformation. God knows our hearts—the pain, fear, and longing that lie beneath our behaviors—and He meets us there with mercy.

When we admit our weaknesses, take responsibility for our part, and surrender the rest, we find the serenity to follow Christ one day at a time. In doing so, we walk in unity with others who seek healing and become instruments of the same mercy that has healed us.

Reflection Questions

- How has humility helped you find peace in your family relationships?
- What does it look like for you to “take your own inventory” rather than focusing on someone else's?
- Where is God inviting you to surrender control and trust His justice and mercy?

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Sunday Mass Readings this Week

First Reading: Exodus 17:8-13

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 121:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8

Second Reading: 2 Timothy 3:14-4:2

Gospel: Luke 18:1-8