

Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time



Three ingredients that are crucial for recovery are honesty, open-mindedness, and willingness. When practiced together, we experience humility, unity, and a shared vision of service to others. Humility is not thinking less of ourselves, but thinking of ourselves less often. It is both a seed and a fruit of our recovery—something that we grow into as we allow God to order our lives.

The true source of humility does not rest in dramatic moments of humiliation (although they can be helpful to be rid of denial) but instead can be found in regular acts of conversion.

The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* (paragraph 1435) offers a rich description of what this kind of conversion looks like:

“Conversion is accomplished in daily life by gestures of reconciliation, concern for the poor, exercise and defense of justice and right, by the 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.”

Those who exemplify humility often do so with joy and gladness in their hearts, even when going through hardship. On August 27, we celebrate the Feast of Saint Monica, a great example of Christian humility amid family addiction. The steadfast prayer life and peace that Monica was able to maintain during episodes of chaos and confusion in her household were reflective of her trust in God’s will. She did her part to remain faithful to the work that was put in front of her while being patient with the response she had gotten from the Lord (and waited 18 years for the conversion of her son, Augustine).

Sunday’s first reading speaks more about humility, adding the importance of staying right-sized, listening, and giving to those in need (Sirach 3:17-18, 20, 28-29):

*My child, conduct your affairs with humility,
and you will be loved more than a giver of gifts.
Humble yourself the more, the greater you are, and
you will find favor with God.
What is too sublime for you, seek not,
into things beyond your strength search not.
The mind of a sage appreciates proverbs,
and an attentive ear is the joy of the wise.
Water quenches a flaming fire, and alms atone for
sins.*

It is not the smartest who have the most success in recovery, but those who are faithful, available, and teachable. Believing we have all the answers can hinder our chances of experiencing a spiritual awakening. The conditions for humility and daily exercises of conversion are needed each day.

The gifts that God gives us, including the removal of our character defects, are not confined to us. They are an invitation to use what we have found in order to share hope with others. This is summarized beautifully in what is known as the Seventh Step Prayer:

My Creator, I am now willing that you shall have all of me, good and bad.

I pray that you now remove from me every single defect of character

that stands in the way of my usefulness to you and my fellows.

Grant me strength as I go out from here to do your bidding. Amen.

Like Saints Monica and Augustine, we are invited to live in a way that points others toward hope. Our own transformation—no matter how incomplete—becomes a testimony that God is faithful, that change is possible, and that humility is the doorway to lasting freedom.

Reflection Questions

- How do the lives of Saints Monica and Augustine give you hope for your own recovery journey?
- What daily acts of humility help you maintain freedom from addictions, compulsions, and unhealthy attachments?
- How can you share the gifts you've received in recovery to serve others this week?

A Day of Hope and Healing

*A virtual recovery summit co-hosted by
Catholic in Recovery and iTHIRST Initiative*

- Special one-day event on **Friday, September 26**
- Join fellow CIR community members from around the world for a day of faith, fellowship, and renewal
- Keynote speakers include Dr. Matthew Breuninger, Dawn Eden Goldstein, and Fr. Sean Kilcawley
- Catholic in Recovery meetings and interactive workshops
- Praise & worship music, prayer, and testimonies of hope
- Register at **catholicinrecovery.com/2025-summit**

Sunday Mass Readings this Week

First Reading: Sirach 3:17-18, 20, 28-29

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 68:4-5, 6-7, 10-11

Second Reading: Hebrews 12:18-19, 22-24a

Gospel: Luke 14:1, 7-14