



Reflection: On Being Humble

'For all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted' (Luke 14. 11)

The virtue of humility, one we are all called to live, runs consistently through the Gospel and epistles.

In his Daily TV Mass homily on November 4, 2023, Msgr. Robert Nusca of the Archdiocese of Toronto drew key reflections from the Gospel story about a parable of being seated at a wedding banquet to point this ideal, as follows:

First: *Jesus counsels us against any kind of superficial, self-serving, public posturing that's seeks worldly recognition and increased social status. Rather, He invites the powerful elites of His time along with us to genuine humility in our dealings with others. Humility defined as "free from pride" is primary for all those who seek a strong and enduring relationship with Jesus Christ.*

Second: *By His own example, Jesus encourages the disciples to eat with the poor, with sinners, with outcasts. Hence, He shows us how the teachings of the Gospel effectively serve to take what is in the margin and bring it to the centre. The Gospel contains at heart a beautiful teaching about God's love for the poor, for the lost in our time, for the sick, the dying. God is in many ways closer to those who are suffering. So here, as elsewhere in the Gospels, we see it less a question of how much the Son of God does for the poor than how much love He shows in caring for them.*

In many situations and in many ways, Vincentians can show humility in our journey together. One is through stewardship of conferences and councils. As with any of His children, God gives our leaders the grace to use the gifts entrusted in them, and put themselves wholly at members', neighbours-in-need's and above all at His disposal. In passing through this world, they are called to reflect the heart of God and be caring of those around them. But stewardship may at times be caught up in authority and influence, with some wrap up in seeking their glorification, imposing their will on others, straying from the deeper desire to become Christ-like and focusing less on service to others. Being humble servants moves them from this worldly glorification to His - of God and Father of all - who humbled Himself to share our humanity, making them respond more meaningfully to His will.

An informal document in the SVdPUSA site lists among others "Beatitudes of a Vincentian Leader", as follows: 1. *Blessed are the leaders who seek the best for those they serve, and 2. Blessed are the leaders who know how to lead without being dictatorial because true leaders are humble.* Humility is best personified by leaders who trustingly value the views of their members, lifting them up and creating conditions for mutually finding best efforts to help our neighbours-in-need.

The SVdPUSA Prayer concludes: *Come, Holy Spirit, grant us the simplicity to share honestly with each other, the **humility** to serve a mission greater than ourselves, and the gentleness to listen to each other without judgment.*

Reflection Questions

1. How do keep yourself being humbled? What inhibits you from being humble? What role does humility play in your life?
2. How does humility define true servant leadership?

Let us pray... O Lord, may you stir our hearts for Your glory by extolling and following Your Son's example of humility. May we always be moved to put the needs of our neighbours and fellow Vincentians, and humbly find true greatness by serving them. May our neighbours-in-need in their poverty and miseries help us to be humble in our personal relationships with all those around us.

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About the writer: Jose is a chartered professional accountant. He is a member of Saint John of the Cross, Mississauga, Ontario Conference, a member of the Greater Toronto Central Council Spirituality Committee, and President as well as Spiritual Facilitator of the Peel North Particular Council. Aside from the National Spirituality committee, he is member of that Council's Strategic Planning committee. He is also a member of the Catholic Family Services Peel-Dufferin (CFSPD) Board of Directors, and recently appointed as its Board treasurer.

For those interested in contributing spiritual reflections, please email jose.torres@rogers.com. Also, for current and past months' reflections that may be used in group meeting's spirituality segment, please check out Spirituality - Society of Saint Vincent de Paul - National Council of Canada (ssvp.ca).