

# Christ Our Hope Catholic Church

## *Faith in Laity Corner*



Monday, September 02, 2019

22<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Times

Readings: Sir. 3:17-18, 20, 28-9/Lk.14:1, 7-14

## Mind Your Manners

It never fails to amaze me that folks will often say that *they don't know what Jesus told them about life, love and living*. Each book of the New Testament and many in the Old Testament took pains to explain to mankind the types of behaviors which will ensure that life will pass with relative ease on this Earth. The only way one can find out what the Bible tries to share with us is, if we take the time to read some of its pages.

On this 22<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost, as I reflect on what these readings are telling us., I hear that once again we have human beings killed and injured from the bullets of people who have little thought or care for the value of human life and have even less understanding that we are all born in the image and likeness of a God, who is the final judge of all actions we take on this earth. I dare to think that some people find it easy to deliberately cause pain and horror to their neighbor. There is the sublime opinion by some to take their chances to suddenly face God with these atrocities around their neck, rather than to abide by His rules here on this earth. That is a chance I don't want to take, as I will work on myself here and now, to obey God's Laws.

Our reflection this week reminds me of times past when it was a sign of ‘good upbringing’ to ‘mind your manners.’ There were the rules of speaking in soft tones to your friends, covering one's mouth to yawn or cough. There was the understood rule that you did not go in the face of adults or important people unless they call or sought your company. Having manners requires that one is humble. What does it mean to have humility? Humility is to know your place and to understand that everything does not revolve around oneself and one's wishes. When you display manners, you demonstrate consideration for the needs and rights of others and the ability to humbly put aside what you want or feel to do but allow others to take first place.

*“My son, conduct your affairs with humility,  
and you will be loved more than a giver of gifts.” (Sir. 3:17)*

One of the most important traits which enable us to hear the voice of God is to demonstrate humility. God recognizes the importance of humility, as the highest order of human qualities.

*“Humble yourself the more, the greater you are,  
and you will find mercy in the sight of God.” (Sir. 3:18)*

God has equated our ability to be humble as an open invitation to receive His mercy. Jesus set the example of humility – ‘even unto death, death on a Cross.’ Minding our manners enables us to hold ourselves in the correct light, not putting ourselves in position which we truly don’t have.

In direct opposition to humility is pompous pride which God condemns soundly:

*“When the proud are afflicted, there is no cure;  
for they are offshoots of an evil plan.” (Sir. 3:28)*

God warns us that evil enters when we do not ask God for the grace of good-mannered Humility... The Gospel delves into the parable of having the good manners of humility

when invited to dine at a fine establishment hosting many guests. Jesus reminds us that we avoid embarrassment when we take a seat in the back and allow the host to seek your presence near to him/her.

*When you are invited by someone to a wedding banquet,  
do not recline at table in the place of honor. (Lk. 14:8)*

If you were not to be seated close to the host, you remain in your present position and not be given a ‘put done’.

*“Go and take the lowest place.” (Lk. 14:8)*

The host who desires your close proximity, you will hear:

*‘My friend, move up to a higher position.’ (Lk. 14:10)*

Of course, you will feel a sense of recognition that the host desires you to be near to him/her. Simple manners permit humility to filter and be displayed in our lives, permitting us to recognize our truthful place, that the focus does not have to be on ourselves. It provides room to be recognized for the good we do in this life.

*“For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled,  
but the one who humbles himself will be exalted.” (Lk. 14:11)*

As people of faith let us ‘mind our manners’ as we implore Our Father to give us the courage to face what we have to do as citizens of life to control gun violence, let us pray for those who have died and are injured. We ask God’s protection for the people of the Bahamas and other areas who will be greatly affected by hurricane Dorian.

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***Lord, hear our humble prayer for our families and the victims  
of violence and nature.***

*Faith in Laity Corner* is a weekly Sunday reading reflection written by Brenda Chee Wah  
a parishioner of Christ Our Hope Catholic Church in Lithonia, Georgia.

Your remarks, questions and comments can be emailed to [faithinlaity@gmail.com](mailto:faithinlaity@gmail.com)

<http://www.christourhopeatl.org/becoming-a-catholic/christ-our-hope-catholic-church-weekly-reflections.php>

*Weekly readings are taken from USCCB-Daily*