

The Difficult Virtue of Humility

Image by [John Hain](#) from [Pixabay](#)

The message in the gospel for the [30th Sunday in Ordinary Time](#) is sometimes a hard one for me to hear. It's all about humility and I'm the first to admit I can be very full of myself. From the first line I can hear the Lord talking to me: "Jesus addressed this parable to those who were convinced of their own righteousness and despised everyone else." How often am I the prideful one who needs to be knocked down a peg or two?

In 2016, Pope Francis spoke with a group of young people who asked what the greatest sin is. His answer reiterates the lesson in Jesus' parable. "You cannot be a Christian without living like a Christian," the Holy Father said. "You cannot be a Christian without practicing the Beatitudes. You cannot be a Christian without doing what Jesus teaches us in Matthew 25," which is to feed the hungry, clothe the naked and welcome the stranger.



"It's hypocrisy to call yourself a Christian and chase away a refugee or someone seeking help, someone who is hungry or thirsty, toss out someone who is in need of my help," Pope Francis said. "If I say I am Christian, but do these things, I'm a hypocrite."

St. Francis was also known for his humility. In his own opinion, he was nothing but a sinner, keeping in mind only his failings. There was nothing fake about his humility. In the *Second Life of St. Francis*, Thomas of Celano writes, "There was no covetousness in him except the desire to become better, and not content with what he had, he sought to add new virtues."

How often do we defend our prideful thoughts and actions, thinking that our way is the "right" way? It's not easy to set aside our feelings in order to look more closely at the migrants being bused from border states to cities far and wide. To see them as human beings, fleeing danger in their home countries. To empathize with their plight. Jesus never said following him would be easy. He calls us to do just that in the gospel this week: "...for whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and the one who humbles himself will be exalted."

Janine Walsh
FAN Communications Coordinator

Suggested Action:

Be intentional about practicing humility this week

Suggested Petitions:

May the mercy of God shower down upon us as we ask forgiveness for our sins and reconcile with the Lord, we pray...

For all Christians, that we may have the strength and courage of heart to stand firm in our faith even in the face of evil, we pray...

Humility Prayer:

God, I am far too often influenced by what others think of me. I am always pretending to be either richer or smarter or nicer than I really am. Please prevent me from trying to attract attention. Don't let me gloat over praise on one hand or be discouraged by criticism on the other.

Amen

Opportunity: Border Mass and Migrant Accompaniment

The Franciscan Network for Migrants is hosting an opportunity to visit the southern border and participate in a [Border Mass and Migrant Accompaniment](#) in November. Attendees will witness first hand the impact of US federal and state policies towards migrant sisters and brothers on both sides of the U.S.-Mexico border. You will meet migrants and attend the annual binational border mass, which is a cooperative effort of the dioceses of El Paso, TX, Las Cruces, NM, and Juarez, Mexico. Find more information and the application by [clicking here](#).



Take Action to Stand with Dreamers

On October 5, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit issued its decision in *Texas v. United States*, affirming a lower court's ruling that deemed the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program to be unlawful. This decision returns the case to the district court to consider the impact of regulations published by the Department of Homeland Security on August 30 to codify the program. Upon hearing the news, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops renewed their plea to "Congress, Republicans and Democrats alike, to provide a permanent solution for all Dreamers out of respect for their God-given dignity." [Read the full statement here](#). Take action by [emailing your members of Congress today](#), urging that they work to create a pathway to permanent legal status for Dreamers.



Jubilee For the Earth Podcast

[“Jubilee for the Earth”](#) is a podcast mini-series about biodiversity and our sacred story brought about by the Missionary Society of St. Columban. Over the course of six episodes, they explore the beauty of biodiversity and the threats it faces as they travel around the world to hear from Columbans who are working to renew the face of the Earth. Grounded in Catholic Social Teaching, this podcast is meant to help us all to see how caring for our common home is fundamental to our lives as people of faith and as global citizens.



You can find out more and listen to all the episodes by [clicking here](#). You can listen to the *Jubilee for the Earth* as a podcast on Apple, Spotify, or wherever you get your podcasts, or you can watch the videos on [YouTube](#) and [Facebook](#).

Catholic Nonviolence Initiative Fall Series

We recently learned of a [five-part online series](#) focused on the Catholic Nonviolence Initiative, of Pax Christi International. While two sessions have already been held, they were recorded and you may view them as well as register for the three remaining sessions.



- Tuesday **October 18 @ 6:30-8pm CST** - Christian Foundations of Nonviolence: Lisa Sowle Cahill and KC Choi
- Tuesday **October 25 @ 6:30-8pm CST** - Embracing Nonviolence, A New Moral Framework: Archbishop John C. Wester of Sante Fe, NM, Eli McCarthy, and Wamuyu Wachira
- Thursday **November 3 @ 6:30-8pm CST** - Embracing Nonviolence, Transforming the Church: Fr. John Heagle and Judy Coode

Find more information about each session and register to attend by [clicking here](#).

Voter Guides from Faith Partner Organizations

As we approach the midterm elections, we share a few voter guides developed by our partner faith organizations that might be helpful resources.

Interfaith Power and Light is bringing back its Faith Climate Justice Campaign, focused on engaging and mobilizing faith voters to communicate their values of caring for our common home and loving our neighbors through voting. [Find more information and download a voter guide here](#).

Network Lobby is in the midst of a Pope Francis Voter Tour with many election materials on their website. [Find more information and guides to](#)



[download here.](#)

Franciscan Justice Circle Updates

Sts. Francis and Clare started their journeys of continual conversion from a place of encounter, listening, and attentiveness to the Holy Spirit. Similarly, we seek to enter into relationships with an openness that may very well move our hearts so much that we can no longer ignore the cry for justice and healing. What can we do? We join with others to tend the wounds AND address the structural causes - that is the idea of the Franciscan Justice Circles. We make space to invite grace.

MAKING SPACE
to invite grace



[Contact us](#) to find out more about joining a [Franciscan Justice Circle](#).