

14TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - YEAR A - 2020

Jesus begins today's gospel with exclamation: "I give praise to you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, for although you have hidden these things from the wise and the learned, you have revealed them to little ones." This prayer of Jesus and the theme from today's readings remind us to **practice humility and trust in God's love and care for us.**

When I first joined the seminary, there were 24 seminarians coming from different dioceses. Then, every year, one after another dropped out. After nine years of the seminary formation, only 2 were ordained priest: one for diocese of San Jose, and me for Archdiocese of San Francisco. 22 others had quitted. I share this fact, with my intent to ask you to pray for the life of our Church, especially pray for priestly vocations.

Looking back my years in the seminary, I realized that many of the intelligent seminarians left the seminary formation. Indeed, I really admired their sharp arguments during the discussions in class, but they were so smart that they hardly agreed with the teachings of the Church. Because of their arrogance, and lack of humility, they could not find satisfaction from what they were taught in the seminary.

Those smart students eventually dropped out of the seminary to find better jobs, becoming engineers, doctors, professors, or businesspersons... Well, the smart chose to follow their own world. The non-smart, like me, chose to be ordained a priest to serve the Church.

I would like to say this prayer of Jesus again: "I give praise to you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, for although you have hidden these things from the wise and the learned you have revealed them to the little ones." I find this prayer fitting to express my gratitude to God for having chosen me to become a priest to serve God and the Church.

I don't really understand God's marvelous work in my life. There were times I intended to quit because of struggles on the journey, but God's grace has kept me survived until now. I keep asking Jesus: "Who am I, Lord, that you have chosen me to be your priest?" Jesus seems to speak to me: "you are not the learned; you are not the wise; but you are a humble child – for that reason I am most pleased. There are many wise people, yet I do not choose them, but I choose you just because you are humble." For eyes have not seen, ears have not heard what God has already prepared for those who love him.

We don't need to show our knowledge, for our knowledge is nothing compared to God's mind. What God asks of us is our sincere love for God, and our trust in God's love for us, just like a little child totally trusts in its mother's protection and care. For us the Christians, humility is one of the important virtues we need to acknowledge and practice.

With humility, we may easily hear Jesus' invitation, and so put our trust in his care, as he calls us: "Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am meek and humble of hear; and you will find rest for yourselves. For my yoke is easy and my burden light."

MASS INTENTIONS (from Sun. July 5 to Sat. July 11)

Sunday	8 a.m.	SC ...	John Beckerley (76 th Birthday)
Monday	8 a.m.	SC ...	Richard Smith (for health)
Tuesday	No Mass
Wednesday	8 a.m.	SC ...	for Fr. Phan's family (thanksgiving)
Thursday	8 a.m.	SC ...	Kathy Drady (thanksgiving)
Friday	8 a.m.	SC ...	Richard Astin (repose)
Saturday	8 a.m.	SC ...	Guido-Mori-Prange (for health)

Sunday, July 5, 2020, outdoor Mass (Photos by Cia Donahue)

