

New Brighton, Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> September 2022

## 16<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost

Last Sunday, the 15<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost, the Gospel offered to our meditation the resurrection of the son of the widow, and this miracle renewed our confidence in Jesus. The widow was the Church, mourning and crying for the sins of her children. This attitude of penance moved the heart of Jesus, who came to console her in this vale of tears. And the son was given back to his mother.

We need at all times the support of our divine Lord regarding our salvation.

As we've been comforted in our spiritual life by the miracle of Jesus, we know from that moment that He will never abandon us. Therefore, he wants us to come closer to him.

After being healed, we are in need to be taught again what are the essential to walk, or even run on the way to heaven.

That's the purpose of the Gospel we just heard this morning. We are invited to not fall again into the same defects which caused us to fail and even die. Jesus warns us today about the root of any of our sins: pride. And teaches us to practice Humility.

Not a false one, which is only apparent: the one who proclaims to anyone he's useless, good to nothing, refuses any honour, but in the secret of his heart, desires more than ever all the contrary, and despises his neighbours.

Jesus wants us to practice a real humility, both external and internal: a real contempt of ourselves, and a high level of reverence for the qualities of our neighbours.

Upon Earth, our humility is not real if we miss this double aspect of the same action:

- Contempt of ourselves
- Honour being given to the others from us, due to our iniquity.

The real measure of our humility in front of God, is the measure of our charity towards our neighbour.

If we fail in one of the two aspects, we will be told off sooner or later, by our fellow neighbours, by a public humiliation following one of our wrong actions, of by God himself.

However, everything will be revealed at the last judgment, when will be stripped of any decoration and disguise we placed upon our defects under a false veil of a false humility.<sup>1</sup>

This stripping of our actions in front of the sovereign judge will be impossible to escape.

Today Our lord invites us to do it before hand.

This stripping of our selfish love and pride would certainly be painful for us, and we will have to endure the mockeries of the others, pagans, or even more hurting, from other

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<sup>1</sup> Dom Guéranger, The Liturgical Year, 16<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost.

brothers Christians. But we've got the insurance all these things we endure on Earth for our salvation are nothing compared to two things:

The pains of Hell reserved for those who didn't practice Humility upon Earth;

The supreme reward which will be given to us as a crown for all our effort to chastise this pride, so deeply rooted in us since the original sin.

The only desire we may pursue, the only ambition we are allowed and even encouraged to work on, is the desire of holiness.

Being watchful of our humility is the secret for anyone who intend to obtain a glorious place at the Divine Banquet. Being ambitious of our future glory in Heaven belongs to the Saints. But these knew that to obtain this glory, they had to lower themselves in this life, to go higher in the life to come.

We've got nothing to loose when we lower ourselves under the others. The place, which is reserved for us in Heaven, doesn't rely upon our appreciation, or the appreciation of the others, but rely upon God only, "who put down the mighty from their seat, and hath exalted the humble".

The higher we are in the society, the humbler we must be. This is how we will be considered in front of God, because God only is High.

Let's follow, just for the sake of our own interest, this advice of the Gospel: let's make ours the last place.<sup>2</sup> I wish we could all fight against each other to obtain the last place. Holiness, if I may say, is a kind of battle between saints to become the humblest, and the most charitable towards the others.

Once again, we see that all virtues are growing together, when one is seriously practiced.

Let's be saints in Humility, and Charity will grow and flourish amongst Christian communities.

"Everyone who exalts himself shall be humbled, and he who humbles himself shall be exalted."<sup>3</sup>

Amen

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<sup>2</sup> Dom Guéranger, The Liturgical Year, 16<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost.

<sup>3</sup> Luke, XIV, 11.