

HUMILITY The 3rd virtue of a good teacher

Let us remember that we are in the holy presence of God.

Opening Song Amazing Grace

1. A- ma- zing grace! How sweet the sound, that

saved a wretch like me. I once was lost, but

now I'm found, was blind, but now I see.

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It features a treble and bass clef with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#) and a 3/4 time signature. The melody is primarily in the treble clef, with piano accompaniment in the bass clef. There are three systems of music, each corresponding to a line of lyrics. The first system covers the lyrics '1. A- ma- zing grace! How sweet the sound, that'. The second system covers 'saved a wretch like me. I once was lost, but'. The third system covers 'now I'm found, was blind, but now I see.' The score includes various musical notations such as eighth notes, quarter notes, and half notes, along with triplets and slurs.

2. 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
and grace my fears relieved.
How precious did that grace appear
the hour I first believed.

3. Through many dangers, toils and snares
I have already come.
'Tis grace hath brought me safe thus far,
and grace will lead me home.

4. The Lord has promised good to me;
his word my hope secures.
He will my shield and portion be
as long as life endures.

Words: John Newton (1725- 1807)
Music: American Folk Melody:
arranged by John Rombaut

Reading from Brother Agathon 1785, translated by Brother Gerard Rummery
1998

Our divine saviour teaches us the necessity of this virtue when he tells us: "Unless you change and become like little children, you will not enter into the Kingdom of God." (Mathew 18:3)

Humility is accompanied by modesty. Thus, a teacher who really possesses this virtue considers himself highly honored to labour at the salvation of souls, following the example of Jesus Christ and of the Apostles. If he is talented, he does not make a display of it; he does not show conceit, pride, overbearing manners. He does not look down on his brothers nor on what they do. He does not seek to be praised for what he does, nor applauded for his success; he does not attribute to himself the glory which is due only to the One who distributes talents as He sees fit; he refers all such esteem to God alone.

The humility of a good teacher makes him charitable, affable, obliging, easy to approach, especially by the poor, and those whom he might find less interesting to deal with. Never does he assume, when addressing the students, an arrogant, disdainful, or scornful attitude.

Our response from *Phil 2*

Side One: I urge you, then, to make me completely happy by having the same thoughts, sharing the same love, and being one in soul and mind.

Side Two: Don't do anything from selfish ambition or from a cheap desire to boast, but be humble towards one another, always considering others better than yourselves.

Side One: And look out for one another's interests, not just for your own. The attitude you should have is the one that Christ Jesus had.

Side Two: He always had the nature of God, but he did not think that by force he should try to remain equal with God.

Side One: Instead of this, of his own free will, he gave up all he had and took the nature of a servant. He became like a human being and appeared in human likeness.

Side Two: He was humble and walked the path of obedience all the way to death, his death on the cross.

Side One: For this reason God raised him to the highest place above and gave him the name that is greater than any other name.

Side Two: And so, in honour of the name of Jesus all beings in heaven, on earth, and in the world below, will fall on their knees.

Side One: And all will openly proclaim that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father.

All: Glory be to the Father....Amen.

Pause for quiet reflection

Reading *1 Corinthians 1:26-31*

Now remember what you were my brothers and sisters, when God called you. From the human point of view few of you were wise or powerful or of high social standing. God purposely chose what the world considers nonsense in order to shame the wise, and he chose what the world considers weak in order to shame the powerful. He chose what the world looks down on and despises, and thinks is nothing, in order to destroy what the world thinks is important.

This means that no one can boast in God's presence. And God has brought you into union with Christ Jesus and God has made Christ to be our wisdom. By him we are put right with God, we become God's holy people and are set free.

So then, as the scripture says, "Whoever wants to boast must boast about what the Lord has done."

- Our response** from *Letters 81 and 109* of John Baptist de La Salle
- Side One:** You must be convinced that your vocation demands of you quite a different degree of humility so that what would be tolerated in another person should not seem tolerable in you at all.
- Side Two:** Looking on yourself as the lowest of creatures, you should place yourself beneath everyone else and be astounded that anyone can put up with you.
- Side One:** See how far you are from having such sentiments and be ashamed that you know yourself so little. Ask our Lord to engrave this humility deep in your heart.
- Side Two:** There is no better way of destroying your deep-seated pride than the acceptance each day of humiliations.
- Side One:** Humble yourself when you cause suffering to others; and when you find others criticizing what you do, be convinced that they are right.
- Side Two:** You must be convinced that there is none who is not more virtuous and more spiritual than you.
- Side One:** You like to profess that you are a great lover of humility and that you have great esteem for it, just as long as you can avoid humiliations as much as possible.
- Side Two:** What good will it be for you to love the virtue and to refuse to practise it ?
- All:** Glory be to the Father Amen.

Pause for quiet reflection

Intercessions

Closing prayer

- All** Merciful saviour, you are meek and humble of heart, you resist the proud but show favour to the humble. Grant us the virtue of humility that we may appreciate our value in your sight and that we may never seek to devalue nor to pretend superiority over another. We ask this in Jesus' name.
Amen

Closing song

The Magnificat

The Lord has done marvels for me: holy is his name.

1. My soul glorifies the Lord,
 2. He looks on his servant in her nothingness;
 9. the mercy promised to our fathers,
 10. Praise the Father, the Son and Holy Spirit,

my spirit rejoices in God, my Saviour.
 henceforth all ages will call me blessed.
 for Abraham and his sons for ever.
 both now and for ever, world without end.

3. The Almighty works marvels for me.
 5. He puts forth his arm in strength
 7. He fills the starving with good things,

Holy his name!
 and scatters the proud-hearted.
 sends the rich away empty.

4. His mercy is from age to age
 6. He casts the mighty from their
 8. He protects Israel from his

age, on those who fear him.
 thrones and raises the lowly.
 servant, remembering his mercy.

God resists the proud but gives his grace to the humble. (Proverbs 3:34)

**St. John Baptist de La Salle, pray for us
 Live Jesus in our hearts, forever!**