

## **Be Humble!**

One of the central themes the readings of this Sunday invite us to reflect on is the virtue of humility. Our first reading: (The book of Sirach 3:17–18, 20, 28–29), one of the Wisdom books, summarizes the beautiful and heart-touching admonishment on the importance of humility in these words: *"My child, conduct your affairs with humility, and you will be loved more than a giver of gifts. Humble yourself the more, the greater you are, and you will find favor with God."* Similarly, Jesus in Luke's Gospel (Luke 14:1, 7–14) uses the wedding banquet parable to demonstrate how we must humble ourselves to be praised and raised by others. He said, *"For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted."*

In reflecting on the virtue of humility, we must be mindful of what humility is not. Humility is not humiliation or denial of what we have, are, or know. Instead, humility is accepting who we are or what we have or know and using those gifts to praise God by being of service to others because of whatever we have or have received. The virtue of humility makes it possible for us to be grateful for our achievements, whether intellectually, socially, financially, or spiritually. It helps us to be spiritually genuine, accepting the truth about ourselves, acknowledging our mistakes, forgiving ourselves and others, and asking for forgiveness from God and one another.

We all need the virtue of humility to live an authentic Christian life. Humility abhors two extremes: claiming that one is everything or claiming that one is nothing. In the practice of humility, we battle against our ego, which usually leads to seeing life as revolving around oneself alone. Humility is the mother of all virtues. St Augustine was once asked what was the most important of all virtues. His answer was humility. He stated, "It was pride that changed angels into devils; it is humility that makes men as angels." Let us pray for the virtue of humility to accept who we are and what we know and have to the greater glory of God. Amen.

***Blessed Cyprain Iwene Tansi- - Pray for us!***