

**30th Sunday Ordinary Time / Luke 18:9-14**

**-Thank goodness I'm not like the Pharisee.**

**-When we are aware of our own sinfulness / And offer our sins to God / We will be more open to God in our prayer life / More aware we're not walking alone / More concerned about others / Leading to intercessory prayer for ourselves, our families, and for others.**

**-When we come before God humbled / Aware we're not perfect / We will be open to healing / For ourselves / And the desire to pray for the healing of others.**

**-When we exhibit No humility / We will not be open to offer God our own sins and rejection that needs healing / Who doesn't want to be healed and made whole?**

**While I attended NCSU the school allowed preachers on campus / One day a preacher claimed that Christians don't sin / Once you accept Jesus you are good / No / We can choose to reject or replace God with ourselves / When we repent (CRY OUT TO GOD) / Opens us to healing and wholeness.**

**I said to the preacher: St. Paul said he was the chief of sinners (1 Tim 1:15) / I believe his earlier persecution of the church / Pushed him to serve God / Opened him to healing / Allowed him to become a powerful priest / Servant / St. Paul moves from a Pride Filled Pharisee to a humbled "powerful" servant.**

**-This knowledge of his error propelled him into a deeper life of prayer (for himself and others) / And pushed him to seek the salvation of souls / To build up the church.**

**-In the end / even amidst the crosses and trials / During the ups and downs / St. Paul knew he was not journeying nor walking alone / He was joyful / Even when in chains or imprisoned / He always cried out to the Lord / For Himself & the Church.**

**-I would like to end with this:**

**-A mother wrote about raising her children in the Church / Catholic Education / took them to Mass / Taught them the faith and Prayer.**

**-And today some of our family may not be practicing the faith / It hurts.**

**-She reminded me of my mother praying for her son, to come home to Jesus.**

**-Never ever give up in prayer / Ultimately leave your children in the hands of Jesus / Like St. Monica and St. Augustine / You may or may not see the fruit in this life / But after offering up our own sins / Pray for the conversion of our children / those away from God / Give them daily to Jesus.**

**-This prayer life (intercession for others) will create Saints.**

**-2Tim. 4: 6-8 / St. Paul speaks of running the race / Our Christian journey is like running a race to our final destination: Heaven / Athletes train for success.**

**HOPE FOR MY CHILDREN** A Catholic mother offers a beautiful reflection on what it means to grieve when children abandon the faith, what keeps her going, and how prayer is her great solace. She reminds us that where there is life, there is hope and healing.

**<https://catholicexchange.com/i-still-have-hope-that-christ-will-bring-my-kids-back-to-the-faith/>**

**My next post will be the simplicity of how to run the race and be successful / The simplicity of the answer may surprise you, so stay tuned.**