

Before my Sunday Notes: please remember we have two amazing opportunities coming this Friday, Saturday, and Sunday.

Friday: Deacon Harold Burke-Sivers (of EWTN Fame) will be with 3 speakers to help us to grow in our faith. The program begins at 6:30pm at the Church.

Saturday and Sunday in the Parish Hall will be The Eucharistic Miracles Exhibit put together by our Blessed Carlo Acutis.

Please see Church Bulletin and webpages for specific information.

Homily notes: 25th Sunday

Gospel Reading (Mark)

-Jesus uses a powerful image of a child: (Spiritual Meaning).

-By becoming a child Jesus reminds us: (A child is a blessing).

-With Jesus taking this image of a child: (we see innocence, no duplicity, openness) / This is a perfect image of Jesus' relationship with His Father.

-When we are humble and trust God: We are open to a wisdom to know that God's Greater Good will follow our Crosses.

-From another angle looking at Roman Culture:

-In Roman culture a child could be seen as unwanted or as competition / As a possession / Thus many were left to die / Treated as disposable / (Second class citizen with no rights until adulthood).

-Jesus uses this image to convey that we are to respect all life, and to love all of God's children / And to see our children as gifts and not as an unwanted burden or competition to our happiness / No!; Children enhance our lives and give us deeper meaning and fulfillment / They lead us to happiness / Happiness comes through receiving a child / Jesus / The other.

-Jesus tells us when we receive the child (we receive Him).

-The word (Child and Servant) come from the same root in (Aramaic and Greek).

-To follow Christ is rooted in humble servanthood / The divine irony is that becoming a child of God is the only means to becoming truly mature and fully human / And a Cross can become a remedy to overcome our ego driven selfish and illicit passions.

-And when we experience our crosses / Especially in a culture trying to avoid any inconvenience / pain / suffering / death / And yes, even children / When we accept the child / Become a humble servant / Trust God the Father like the child Jesus / We receive the virtue of prudence to make wise decisions / And when pain and suffering is unavoidable / We will have the wisdom, patience and Fortitude to know His greater good and consolation will follow any Cross we might be carrying at this present time.

**-Children remind us of humility, and as a servant to be open to life / The other / Our crosses open us to God's Grace, Love, Meaning, And human fulfillment.
-Sacraments (Mass, Reconciliation) allows us to be open to grace.**

-Jesus, present in the Sacraments allows us to be open to the lifting up of all people. Showing respect, honor, and receiving in love: our spouses, children, friends, neighbors, and of course the least among us - the poor and most vulnerable.

**Vivat Jesus,
Father Vic Gournas**