

REFLECTION

26th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

Scripture: Philippians 2: 1-11

St. Paul teaches us a valuable lesson about humility and genuine Christian love when he says, "Do nothing out of selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as more important than yourselves."

In a world that values recognition, praise, and advantage, Paul invites us to a gentler way: to put others before ourselves. Selfish ambition is the urge to be noticed, to win, to protect our comfort and status. However, humility loosens that grip. It helps us release the need for credit and opens our hearts to serve as Christ served. Christ stepped downward—into service, vulnerability, and obedience—and Paul invites us to follow that same path. Yet humility does not mean seeing ourselves as worthless. Valuing others above ourselves does not erase our dignity; it simply reminds us we are not the center of everything. Humility frees us to notice the gifts of others and rejoice in their success without jealousy.

May Jesus make us humble and strip from our hearts every trace of selfish ambition, pride, jealousy, and the hunger for recognition.

"There is no place for selfishness - and no place for fear! Do not be afraid, then, when love makes demands. Do not be afraid when love requires sacrifice."

— St. John Paul II