



He Emptied Himself

In the Gospels, Jesus seldom teaches doctrine. Rather, the stories themselves provide examples of how we are to model our lives after him. He was a man for others, a compassionate healer, an understanding friend. As clear as such stories might be, because we can be selfish people, the example they offer us is difficult to follow. If it is hard to follow a man who lived a human life with others, how are we to follow the example sketched by Paul in today's second reading?

Paul declares in Philippians: "Have among yourselves the same attitude that is also yours in Christ Jesus" (2:5). What attitude is he talking about? Jesus emptied himself of the preeminence that was rightly his as possessing "equality with God" (2:6). He did not demand that they treat him with the reverence and veneration that was due him. Rather, "he emptied himself...he humbled himself" (2:7, 8).

Why does Paul insist on this? It seems the Philippians were having internal problems that were threatening their unity. Various forms of arrogance were tearing them apart: *Don't you know who I am? I am a celebrity. I have more money. I know the right people. And who are you? Who do you know? What can you do?* These attitudes of arrogance infect our communities even today. To this Paul proclaims: If Jesus, who "though he was in the form of God" (2:6) could empty himself of such dignity for the sake of others, you certainly should be able to put aside your trivial vainglory and be "united in heart" (2:2).

Can we?

—Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

FOR Reflection

- ✦ In what circumstances does your arrogance raise its ugly head? What do you do about that?
- ✦ What might you do to strengthen the bonds of unity in your family? Your workplace? Your parish?

Assumption of Our Lady



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September 27, 2020

26th Sunday in Ordinary Time – Year A

Weekend Masses

Saturday 5:00 pm

Sunday 10:30 am

Weekday Masses

Mon. Tues. & Wed. 12:10 pm

Thurs. & Fri. 5:30 pm

Reconciliation time: Saturday from 4:15 to 4:45pm; Sunday, 9:45-10:15am or by appointment. Please contact Fr. Innocent for any other sacraments or funerals



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& St. Anne, Katlodeeche

Sunday Mass 1:30 PM

Date	Readers	Collection	Gift Bearers	Eucharistic Ministers	Coffee & Snacks
Sept. 06	Please volunteer during mass.	Please volunteer during mass.	postponed	postponed	Postponed
Sept. 13	Please volunteer during mass.	Please volunteer during mass.	postponed	postponed	Postponed
Sept. 20	Please volunteer during mass.	Please volunteer during mass.	postponed	postponed	Postponed
Sept. 27	Please volunteer during mass.	Please volunteer during mass.	postponed	postponed	Postponed
Oct. 04	Please volunteer during mass.	Please volunteer during mass.	postponed	postponed	Postponed

EZEK 18.25-28; PHIL 2.1-11; MT 21.28-32

- For those who suffer greatly, it is tempting to say, “the way of the Lord is unfair,” especially when we find ourselves in difficult situations which are not of our own making. For example, people who suffer from infertility may recognize that they are infertile not through their own fault. Yet each person is called to submit humbly to God’s plan.
- Today it is even more difficult to give ourselves up to God’s will. The progress of science has opened doors that can help us achieve whatever we wish. For the infertile, there is IVF treatment; for those with degenerative illnesses, there is embryonic stem cell research. But, as Sacred Scripture warns us, “there is a way which seems right to a man, but its end is the way to death” (Prov. 14:12). Each of these scientific technologies is immoral and comes at the cost of many lives. For this reason, we are cautioned not to seek these destructive remedies.
- Rather than doing whatever is scientifically possible, we are asked to do whatever is right. This calls for great humility and obedience.
- *Pro-Life Intercession:* That the Church, against which the gates of death cannot prevail, will work with confidence to eradicate the injustices of abortion, infanticide, and euthanasia, we pray to the Lord...

Good news in the USA: Amy Barrett has been nominated for the Supreme Court in the United States. She is a devout Catholic, pro-life and mother of 7. She adopted 2 boys from Haiti and her youngest has Down’s syndrome.

There are 9 Supreme Court justices in the USA. They are lifetime appointments and they shape many public policies.

Rachel’s Corner

“As a man, I was all dry inside, I knew what I had done but I didn’t feel much of anything as I didn’t truly understand what I had done to my child as well as to my family. Now I am filled with love for my daughter. I feel like I have been renewed inside, strengthened and empowered by God, through God and for God. The man He always wanted me to be.” -Testimonial

Come on a Rachel’s Vineyard Retreat. They want to help you be free of the burden you are carrying inside. Why not give it a chance?

rachelsvineyard.nwt@gmail.com [867-872-0026](tel:867-872-0026)

Dear Padre,

Where does the tradition of praying with your hands together originate? I pray with my fingers intertwined. Is that acceptable?

According to the *Caeremoniale Episcoporum* (The Ceremonial of Bishops, 1985), “palms extended and joined together in the front of the breast, with the right thumb over the left in the form of a cross” (CE 107, n. 80) is the correct Catholic hand posture at Mass and prayer.

The origin of praying with hands folded is not known, but there’s mention of it in the Jewish Talmud. Historians have also asserted that it’s modeled on the practice of citizens in ancient Rome who joined their hands in the presence of rulers to communicate loyalty and submission to that higher authority.

Gestures and postures should allow our whole body to pray, as well as our heart and mind. Moreover, they are expressions of our faith. For example, like the early Christians, we stand during prayer and worship to express our readiness for Christ’s return, and as a sign of reverence to hear the gospels. Kneeling and striking the breast are expressions of penitence, humility, and our lowliness before God.

Likewise, at Mass the priest assumes the ancient posture of outstretched arms and hands, slightly elevated, to symbolize surrender in a gesture that reverences Christ’s outstretched arms on the cross. When we join hands together in prayer, it’s a gesture of supplication and a symbol of total submission to God, our supreme authority.

—Fr. Byron Miller, CSSR
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AFRICA STUDIO/SHUTTERSTOCK



A WORD FROM Pope Francis

Today let us look at our hands, so often empty of love, and let us try to think of some free gift that we can give without expecting anything in return. That will please the Lord. And let us ask him: “Lord, let me rediscover the joy of giving.”

—EPIPHANY SUNDAY, JANUARY 6, 2018

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Calendar

Monday
SEPTEMBER 28
Weekday
Jb 1:6–22
Lk 9:46–50

Tuesday
SEPTEMBER 29
Sts. Michael, Gabriel,
and Raphael,
Archangels
Dn 7:9–10, 13–14
or Rv 12:7–12a
Jn 1:47–51

Wednesday
SEPTEMBER 30
St. Jerome,
Priest and
Doctor of the Church
Jb 9:1–12, 14–16
Lk 9:57–62

Thursday
OCTOBER 1
St. Thérèse of the
Child Jesus, Virgin and
Doctor of the Church
Jb 19:21–27
Lk 10:1–12

Friday
OCTOBER 2
Holy Guardian Angels
Jb 38:1, 12–21; 40:3–5
Mt 18:1–5, 10

Saturday
OCTOBER 3
Weekday
Jb 42:1–3, 5–6, 12–17
Lk 10:17–24

Sunday
OCTOBER 4
Twenty-seventh Sunday
in Ordinary Time
Is 5:1–7
Phil 4:6–9
Mt 21:33–43