



DIOCESE OF SACRAMENTO

Office of Family & Faith Formation

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XXV Sunday in Ordinary Time

with Fr. Michael Vaughan, Pastor
Good Shepherd Parish, Elk Grove

Gospel Mk 9:30-37

Jesus and his disciples left from there and began a journey through Galilee, but he did not wish anyone to know about it. He was teaching his disciples and telling them, "The Son of Man is to be handed over to men and they will kill him, and three days after his death the Son of Man will rise." But they did not understand the saying, and they were afraid to question him.

They came to Capernaum and, once inside the house, he began to ask them, "What were you arguing about on the way?" But they remained silent. They had been discussing among themselves on the way who was the greatest. Then he sat down, called the Twelve, and said to them, "If anyone wishes to be first, he shall be the last of all and the servant of all." Taking a child, he placed it in their midst, and putting his arms around it, he said to them, "Whoever receives one child such as this in my name, receives me; and whoever receives me, receives not me but the One who sent me."

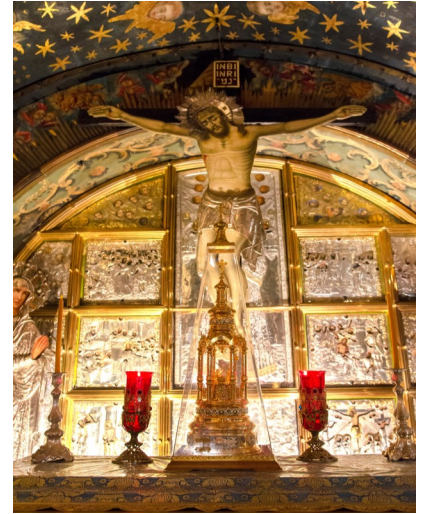
(1st Reading: Wis 2:12, 17-20 / 2nd Reading: Jas 3:16—4:3)

Reflection

"If anyone wishes to be first, he shall be the last of all and the servant of all." (Mk 9:35)

In the gospel this 25th Sunday of Ordinary Time, Jesus gives us a lesson on simplicity. While Jesus was focused on his mission of giving glory to God and saving souls, the Apostles were discussing who was the most important among them. Unfortunately, ambition and pride are part of our sinful condition.

We call someone a simpleton who we regard as lacking intelligence. A child believes that because its parents love and protect it, the decisions made in its regard are the best. Simplicity is similar to humility. It is the single mindedness of a child which comes from a pure heart. It is pure faith in God that does not always question what is asked. We all have the possibility of over-complicating things. When we overthink things many times it comes from a lack of trust and fear which comes from pride.



<https://www.cathopic.com/photo/20883-crucifijo-golgota>

Questions for Reflection:

How is my trust in God?

Am I aware of hidden pride within myself when I am not chosen for positions?

Am I able to submit my judgement to God when decisions made do not line up with my own?

Psalm
54:3-4, 5, 6 and 8

*O God, by your name save
me, and by your might
defend my cause.*

*O God, hear my prayer;
hearken to the words of
my mouth.*

*For the haughty have risen
up against me,
the ruthless seek my life;
they set not God before
their eyes.*

*Behold, God is my helper;
the Lord sustains my life.
Freely will I offer you
sacrifice;
I will praise your name, O
LORD, for its goodness.*



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