

## **Homily Summary – 30<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time – Humility and Halloween**

**Overview:** True humility isn't about self-deprecation or false modesty. It's about living grounded in truth: recognizing our total dependence on God, our need for His mercy, and our call to serve others with love. As we approach All Saints' and All Souls' Days (and even Halloween – "All Hallows Eve"), we can connect humility with holiness and reflect that, to become saints, we must learn to see ourselves honestly before God and live out our faith with simplicity, gratitude, and service.

### **Main Points**

#### **1. The Church's Liturgical Rhythm and Thematic Unity**

- Every Sunday, Catholics around the world hear the same readings.
- The Lectionary follows a three-year cycle (Years A, B, and C), designed so that we hear the fullness of the Gospel and how it fulfills all Scripture.
- This Sunday's readings center on **humility**—the foundation of Christian life.

#### **2. What Humility Really Means**

- From the Latin *humus* ("earth"), humility literally means being "grounded."
- It's not about thinking less of yourself, but thinking of yourself less.
- Humility means recognizing that God is the source of all good and that we depend entirely on His grace.

#### **3. The Catechism on Humility**

- *Catechism of the Catholic Church* (CCC 2559–2560):  
"Humility is the foundation of prayer. Only when we humbly acknowledge that we do not know how to pray as we ought, are we ready to receive freely the gift of prayer."
- CCC 2540: "Envy and pride are the roots of many sins; humility is the antidote."
- CCC 2631: "The prayer of the humble person is heard."
- Humility helps us to turn to God in prayer and to rely on His mercy, not our own merit.

#### **4. Scriptural Foundations**

- **Sirach 35:17:** "The prayer of the humble pierces the clouds."
- **Luke 18:14:** "For all who exalt themselves will be humbled, but all who humble themselves will be exalted."
- **Matthew 5:3:** "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."
- **Philippians 2:5–8:** Jesus "humbled himself, becoming obedient to death, even death on a cross."
- **Luke 1:48** (Mary): "He has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant."

#### **5. Signs of a Humble Heart**

- Not boasting about oneself or one's accomplishments.
- Being patient, kind, gentle, and willing to be corrected.
- Willingness to apologize and forgive.
- Letting others go first, listening more than speaking, and finding joy in service.
- Participating in **Mass** and **Confession**, both acts of humility before God.

#### **6. Humility in Everyday Life**

- At school or work, many strive to be "the coolest" or "most important." True greatness comes from serving with love.
- Remember: God's love is unchanging—you cannot increase or diminish it. Humility is simply living in that truth and responding with gratitude.
- Humility calls us to serve in our families, parishes, and communities.

#### **7. Restoring the True Spirit of Halloween**

- Halloween ("All Hallows' Eve") has Catholic roots as the vigil of **All Saints' Day**.
- We should celebrate it in ways that honor Christ and the saints—sharing joy and community without glorifying darkness.
- Even small acts, like sharing candy with moderation or kindness, can be done with humility and gratitude.

### **Reflection Questions**

1. Do I recognize that everything good in my life comes from God?
2. How often do I let pride or self-reliance get in the way of prayer?

3. Am I willing to ask forgiveness - and offer it - without delay?
4. In what ways can I humbly serve my family, parish, or workplace this week?
5. How can I bring a spirit of humility and holiness into my celebration of All Hallows' Eve?
6. Do I model the humility of Mary and Jesus in how I speak, act, and serve?

#### **Rhyme summary:**

Each week around the world the Scriptures all align,  
To teach our hearts new truths each year through God's Word, by design.  
Today's theme is humility - to serve and not to boast,  
For God lifts up the lowly ones, who feel they need His grace the most.

True humble hearts know that all is gift, and that God's mercy lights our way.  
Jesus showed by His life and cross how His love leads us every day.  
So as All Saints and All Souls draw near, and Halloween soon appears,  
Let's honor Christ with humble hearts, as He casts out pride and our fears.

#### **Reasons to come to Mass each weekend**

**Exodus 20:8** - "Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy."

**Acts 2:42** - "They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers."

**Hebrews 10:24-25** - "And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching."

**Luke 22:19** - "Then he took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, 'This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.'"

**John 6:53-54** - "So Jesus said to them, 'Very truly, I tell you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood have eternal life, and I will raise them up on the last day.'"

**Matthew 18:20** - "For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them."

**Psalms 122:1** - "I was glad when they said to me, 'Let us go to the house of the Lord!'"

**Colossians 3:16** - "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God."

#### **Additional resources to learn more about God and the Catholic faith**

- Check out the resource list available on [www.frmerkley.com](http://www.frmerkley.com)
- Catholic Answers: <https://www.catholic.com/>
- Word on Fire: <https://www.wordonfire.org/>
- Formed: <https://formed.org/>
- The Coming Home Network: <https://chnetwork.org/>
- Catholic Exchange: <https://catholicexchange.com/>
- Dynamic Catholic: <https://dynamiccatholic.com/>
- The Augustine Institute: <https://augustineinstitute.org/>
- Ascension Press: <https://ascensionpress.com/>
- EWTN: <https://www.ewtn.com/>
- The Catholic Company: <https://www.catholiccompany.com/>
- Busted Halo: <https://bustedhalo.com/>
- CatholicCulture.org: <https://www.catholicculture.org/>
- The Thomistic Institute: <https://thomisticinstitute.org/>
- Ignatius Press: <https://www.ignatius.com/>
- Catholic Education Resource Center (CERC): <https://www.catholiceducation.org/>