

## ***Weekend of Saturday August 29 and Sunday August 30th***

### ***Fr Bob writes:***

The first reading at Sunday Mass is always selected to match the theme of the gospel, here with an emphasis on humility. Although you will note that some verses have been edited out for brevity, I encourage you to find this reading in your bible and see also the author's comments on the lack of humility. The author is actually the grandson of a wise man named Sirach who spent hours at his grandfather's feet listening and learning how to live properly and make wise decisions. The book is a summary of all he learned.

This book of Sirach was considered such good teaching that the early church used it for moral guidance with the faithful and in preparation of catechumens who were being made ready to be received into the church during the Easter vigil. As a result it was often called "Liber Ecclesiasticus" (Book of the Church) and some older transactions simply titled the book "Ecclesiasticus"... *"To the humble the Lord reveals his secrets"* declares the writer of his first reading. This expresses an idea frequent in the Old Testament. God showers his favours on those who behave with humility.

Two ideas emerge in today's gospel: the importance of humility and of love for the humble of the earth. Are they related? The answer is in the affirmative when we understand that humility is the honest recognition of personal status in the presence of an all-good and and beneficent God. All are marked by weakness and inadequacy. The realization of this fact convinces us that we have no claim to superiority or exclusivity. The humble person realizes that the poorest at the table are as worthy, perhaps worthier than he or she is.

Watch for a new bulletin next weekend!

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