

## FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Brothers and Sisters



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 welcomes one child such as this in my name, welcomes me; and whoever welcomes me, welcomes not me but the One who sent me." Mark 9:37

'One child such as this....' Jesus refers to his disciples as children. The disciples who, two minutes earlier, had been arguing about whom of them was the greatest.

Translated, Jesus is saying to them, saying to you and me: Do you want others to think well of you, to admire you, to look up to you, to see you as a role model?

Then there is a secret ingredient: consider yourself last and least of all.

When standing in a crowd of people, consider yourself the least.

When you are on a zoom meeting, consider everybody else more important than you.

At work, in school, - consider everybody else you are with your superior.

The other people you live with: serve their needs before your own.

Do not judge, do not condemn, forgive everything, bear everything.

This is called the nature of Jesus Christ. It is the nature of the person who has discovered who they are - a sinner. It is the nature of the person who has experienced that God has loved them as they are - a sinner.

How, did they discover they were a sinner? They were enlightened to see that they were looking for happiness, for life, for meaning in life...in the wrong places.

Why were they looking for life in these places? Because they were enslaved. They were slaves to a life of selfishness, a life of demanding from others. This terrible slavery impeded them from seeing that God was good, that in fact, everything in their life was a blessing.

The slavery they experienced made them think there were two columns in their life: good stuff and bad stuff. The good stuff was when God was blessing them, the bad stuff happened when God must have been taking a nap.

But now they are enlightened to see that in fact everything is a blessing. As a consequence, they no longer need or seek the esteem of others. Neither do they worry about getting old or sick. They are no longer afraid of anything, they do not live-in fear. In fact, they began to smile.

Congratulations everyone: this is the inheritance that has been given to you.

Fr. Sean