



Saturday 02 Oct 2021

Saturday of the twenty-sixth week in Ordinary Time Year 1

Gospel

The Gospel of this Memorial is proper.

Mt 18:1-5. 10

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Their angels in heaven are always in the presence of my Father, who is in heaven.

The disciples came to Jesus and said. 'Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?' So he called a little child to him and set the child in front of them. Then he said, 'I tell you solemnly, unless you change and become like little children you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. And so, the one who makes himself as little as this little child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.

'Anyone who welcomes a little child like this in my name welcomes me.

See that you never despise any of these little ones, for I tell you that their angels in heaven are continually in the presence of my Father in heaven.'

Reflection By Fr John Purnell

Today the disciples approach Jesus with the question: *"Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?"* Jesus called a child into their midst. Then he gives the disciples an unexpected response to their question: *"If you do not become like a child, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven."*

For Jesus, it is a person who is humble in the manner of a child (open, attentive, eager and loving), who will be the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.

Children are a great gift to us. They have the ability to teach us throughout our lives.

Most adults think that children should imitate them. Yet, Jesus completely reverses this thought. We adults should strive to have the innocence, joy, frankness, and unconditional love that children naturally embody. I wonder how our lives would be different if we truly would follow the example of children?

I encourage you to try this for a few days. Then notice: Are you happier, joyful and more relaxed rather than stressed, worried or cranky?

Be attentive to the children in your lives: we can all learn a great deal from every single one of them.

© The scriptural quotations are taken from the Jerusalem Bible, published and copyright 1966, 1967 and 1968 by Darton Longman and Todd Ltd and Doubleday & Co Inc, and used by permission of the publishers.

The English translation of the Psalm Responses, the Alleluia and Gospel Verses, and the Lenten Gospel Acclamations, and the Titles, Summaries, and Conclusion of the Readings, from the Lectionary for Mass © 1997, 1981, 1968, International Committee on English in the Liturgy, Inc. All rights reserved.

The prayers are from the English Translation of the Roman Missal © 2010 International Committee on English in the Liturgy Inc. (ICEL). All rights reserved.