

Spiritual Mission: Pride

“My success is because of me and my work”

“I won’t budge until the other person (spouse, co worker, etc) sees it my way”

“I’ll be seen as successful once I’ve achieved this or accumulated that”

Pride is the excessive love of one’s own excellence. Pride leads to every other sin and, in many ways, is the source of all sin. It is essentially an act or disposition of the will desiring to be considered better than a person really is. Pride is undue self esteem or self-love, which seeks attention and honor and sets oneself in competition with God¹. Why is this ‘competition’ always on?

Opening Prayer

Heavenly Father, You are great, You are almighty.

Thank You for all you do.

Thank You for giving us the desire and the heart to be here.

May You help us open our hearts to You.

May You be here to guide us in our conversation.

May we recognize the the life of Jesus and model our lives like Him.

May we recognize each others’ lives to help support their growth, to be here for one another and to have confidence in our fraternity.

Come Holy Spirit and fill our hearts in this moment.

Amen

The Parable of the Pharisee and the Tax Collector (Luke 18: 9-14)

He then addressed this parable to those who were convinced of their own righteousness and despised everyone else.

“Two people went up to the temple area to pray; one was a Pharisee and the other was a tax collector.

The Pharisee took up his position and spoke this prayer to himself, ‘O God, I thank you that I am not like the rest of humanity—greedy, dishonest, adulterous—or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week, and I pay tithes on my whole income.’

But the tax collector stood off at a distance and would not even raise his eyes to heaven but beat his breast and prayed, ‘O God, be merciful to me a sinner.’

I tell you, the latter went home justified, not the former; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and the one who humbles himself will be exalted.”

Reread in silence and reflect on the words in these passage. Imagine yourself in the scene.

What word or phrase stands out to you? Do you relate to either of these characters? Or do you see these character portrayals around you?

Where in your life is pride blinding your ability to be a humble servant (at home, at work, in the community)?

Can you recall an event/ opportunity that arose as a result of letting go of your pride?

¹ <https://faithmag.com/what-kind-pride-sinful>

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Proverbs 11: 1-4

False scales are an abomination to the LORD,
but an honest weight, his delight.

When pride comes, disgrace comes;
but with the humble is wisdom.

The honesty of the upright guides them;
the faithless are ruined by their duplicity.

Wealth is useless on a day of wrath,
but justice saves from death.

Is pride rooted in the the worldly view of masculinity?

- If so, what are ways to preserve masculinity without falling into the trap of pride?

Catechism 1784

The education of the conscience is a lifelong task. From the earliest years, it awakens the child to the knowledge and practice of the interior law recognized by conscience. Prudent education teaches virtue; it prevents or cures fear, selfishness and pride, resentment arising from guilt, and feelings of complacency, born of human weakness and faults. The education of the conscience guarantees freedom and engenders peace of heart.

Commitment/ Action Plan

This week, let us strive to continue our commitment to daily prayer.

- Pray for clarity in your call/ spiritual mission
- Pray for continual conversion of heart to draw closer to God

This week, let us will pray for

What is your takeaway to live out in this upcoming week:

“The Ultimate Man”

- Lives fully in the virtues
- Protects others, especially the young, old, and infirm
- Expects nothing in return
- Great courage in the face of pain
- Stoic response to everything
- Love is His greatest goal