The “Little Ones” Get it Right…  
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**It is harvest time in this part of the world**, and the Liturgical season seems to reflect this reality. The texts are pointing out “fruit” or the results in us of the wonders of the Paschal Mystery. The Spirit is working to produce results in our lives.

During this month we are presented with Therese, with Martin, with our angels...with the Queen of the Most Holy Rosary, and the final Sunday of October wraps the month up with a central truth: God is God...and we are not. This realization is the most important fruit of all.

The “little ones,” Therese, Martin, the angels, and the maid of Nazareth get it right. They are so great because God has done such marvelous things for them. They know it, they live it, and they love it.

Therese said that she would just stand there, and God would see how little she was. Then he would reach down and pick her up, and give her whatever she asked. Martin, the mulatto, cleaned latrines, and the Dominicans finally invited him to become a Dominican brother. The angel each of us has (have you taken advantage of this relationship?) delight in doing God’s bidding. And Mary...Mary’s first respond to Gabriel was our equivalent of “Who, me?”

They teach us the proper real proportion which is humility. They know they have nothing, are nothing, do nothing without God...the truth of all truths. Maybe the scriptures of this month can foster this golden fruit in us. Maybe we too can finally shake off the arrogance, the sense of privilege, the haughtiness that makes us a pain instead of a joy...to God and to those who know and love us. Yup...the little ones get it right.

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**It clings to me like some BO...**
My sense of self-importance.
   My sense of privilege
   Like God owes me.
How can God owe me when my very existence is his gift?
   I think I have a fever.
   I think my ego is swollen.
   Help!
Bend down and cool me off...
   Hold me and draw out the infection...
   Help me see straight.
   Fill me with that quiet assurance
   That you have me and will never let me go.
Pray, Ponder, Preach and Practice the Word of God

October 2019

Special thanks to S. Therese Van Thull for these reflections.

October 6 – Second letter of St. Paul to Timothy 1:6-8; 13-14

Paul, realizing his time is drawing to a close, urges Timothy to stand firm and proclaim the gospel as it has been given to him. Paul cautions Timothy that this will not be easy but that he must proclaim the gospel in spite of hardship or struggle because to do so comes from God. This advice is also given to us. We, too, should bear the duty of proclaiming God’s message to all, while praying for and with the Church for God’s guidance of our country and the world’s leaders.


Ten lepers approached Jesus asking for healing, but only one, a Samaritan, realizing the gift of healing, returned to Jesus to give thanks. Jesus clearly is disappointed as he asks where the other nine are. As a contrast to this, we read in the Book of Kings, that Naaman, realizing his healing, returns to Elisha to express his gratitude. Do we accept the gifts so generously given by our loving and generous God but fail to express our gratitude? Let us live in an attitude of gratefulness and praise God for everything so freely given to us.

October 20 – Book of Exodus 17: 8-13

In this Sunday’s Exodus passage, we learn that as long as Moses kept his hands raised up, the Israelites were successful in battle. But as Moses grew tired and couldn’t keep his arms up, he needed help; and Aaron and Hur were there to hold his arms up. We all need the help of one another at some time in our lives. Are we willing to accept that help? And be grateful? Again, the Scriptures are urging us to continue being brother and sister to each other.

October 27 – Gospel of Luke 18:9-14

In today’s gospel, Luke is cautioning us to not be like the Pharisee who is bragging about everything he does to keep the Law. He is sure of himself and does not realize that he is thinking only of himself and the things he does to satisfy the Law. On the other hand, the tax collector is asking for mercy and admitting that he is a sinner. Jesus cautions us that if we think we are better than others, we will experience the day that we are brought down and need to admit our failings and weaknesses. In Jesus’ words, “whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and the one who humbles himself will be exalted.”

Let us live in an attitude of gratefulness and praise God for everything so freely given to us.