

Prayer Gathering for 26th Week of Ordinary Time

SIGN OF THE CROSS +

OPENING PRAYER

**Loving God,
every time you forgive us for our sins,
you show us that mercy is the root of justice.
Help us be willing to see others with the same openness and love
and to be willing to change our minds when we are wrong.
We ask this in the power of the Holy Spirit, through Christ, Our Lord. AMEN.**

READING

MOMENT FOR SILENCE

GOSPEL PASSAGE

SHARING QUESTIONS

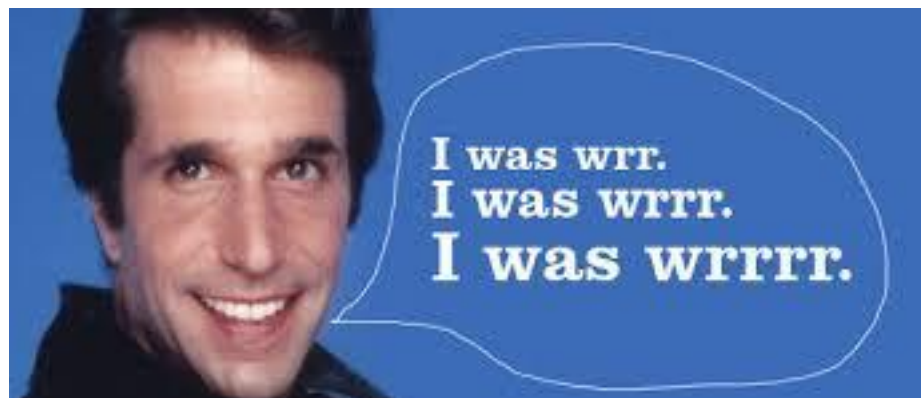
*“Humbly regard others as more important than yourselves, each looking out not for his [or her] own interests, but also for those of others...
Have in you the same attitude that is also in Christ Jesus.”*

In what way did Jesus consider others more important than himself?

If self-esteem is important, how does that square with considering others as more important than myself?

In what way does American culture support humility as it is described in this passage? In what ways does it fail to support or contradict this kind of humility?

POSTED RECENTLY



DISCUSSION

*“He said in reply, 'I will not,' but afterwards changed his mind and went...
...Yet even when you saw that, you did not later change your minds and believe him ”*

When is the last time you changed your mind about an opinion you once held?

How is the ability to change my mind an important part of the spiritual life?

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

For the Church, called to spread and live the Gospel... and for those who lead us; we pray...

Lord, hear our prayer

For our country; for our quarreling leaders; for peace and harmony among political rivals and for fair elections; we pray...

Lord, hear our prayer

For individuals to follow God's lead when they hear a call to the priesthood, diaconate, monastery, cloister or convent; we pray...

Lord, hear our prayer

For all refugees and migrants who seek a place in our society; for all who make them welcome; and for those who serve in aid, relief & development agencies; we pray...

Lord, hear our prayer

For victims of hurricanes, floods or fires; we pray...

Lord, hear our prayer

For all people who suffer from hunger, unemployment or loneliness; we pray...

Lord, hear our prayer

For the spiritual and physical well-being of all parishioners; for the sick, the homebound and the recovering; we pray...

Lord, hear our prayer

For those who have died... ... and for those who grieve...
we pray...

... ...
Lord, hear our prayer

OUR FATHER

[OPTIONAL] PRAYER FOR SPIRITUAL COMMUNION (St. Alphonsus Ligouri)

**My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the most Blessed Sacrament.
I love You above all things and I desire to receive You into my soul.
Since I cannot now receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart.
I embrace You as if You were already there, and unite myself wholly to You.
Never permit me to be separated from You. AMEN.**

CLOSING PRAYER

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. AMEN.**

SIGN OF THE CROSS +

READING 1

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Philippians

Brothers and sisters:

If there is any encouragement in Christ,
any solace in love,
any participation in the Spirit,
any compassion and mercy,
complete my joy by being of the same mind,
with the same love,
united in heart, thinking one thing.

Do nothing out of selfishness or out of vainglory;
rather, humbly regard others as more important than yourselves,
each looking out not for his own interests,
but also for those of others.

Have in you the same attitude
that is also in Christ Jesus.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

READING 2

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew

Jesus said to the chief priests and elders of the people:
"What is your opinion?"

*A man had two sons.
He came to the first and said,
'Son, go out and work in the vineyard today.'
He said in reply, 'I will not,'
but afterwards changed his mind and went.*

*The man came to the other son and gave the same order.
He said in reply, 'Yes, sir,' but did not go.*

Which of the two did his father's will?"

They answered, *"The first."*

Jesus said to them,
*"Amen, I say to you,
tax collectors and prostitutes
are entering the kingdom of God before you.*

*When John came to you in the way of righteousness,
you did not believe him;
but tax collectors and prostitutes did.*

*Yet even when you saw that,
you did not later change your minds and believe him."*

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to You, Lord, Jesus Christ

Matthew, chapter 21