

Humility

Homily for August 31, 2025

According to the Catechism of the Catholic Church, humility is: “The virtue by which a Christian acknowledges that God is the author of all good. Humility avoids inordinate ambition or pride, provides the foundation for turning to God in prayer. CCC.2559. Voluntary humility can be described as ‘poverty of spirit.’ CCC.2546.” CCC Glossary. Humility isn’t thinking little of ourselves, and it’s not thinking of ourselves at all. Humility means living as Christ did, not for ourselves but for others. It means using our talents and gifts as Jesus used His, not for our own glory, but for others and for the glory of God.

Today’s readings challenge us to practice the virtue of humility. I would like to share a story from an anonymous author. The man in the story knew what was happening, but he was so kind and humble that he shared without showing any resentment or anger, unlike the young lady.

A young woman was waiting for her flight in the boarding area of a large airport. Since she would need to wait for several hours, she decided to buy a book to pass the time and also bought a packet of cookies. She then sat down in an armchair in the VIP lounge of the airport to relax and read peacefully. Next to the armchair, where the packet of cookies lay, a man sat down in the adjacent seat, opened his magazine, and started reading. When she took out the first cookie, the man took one as well. She felt irritated but said nothing, only thinking, “What a nerve! If I was in the mood, I would punch him for daring!” And, for each cookie she took, the man took one too.

This was infuriating her, but she didn't want to cause a scene. When only one cookie remained, she thought: “Ah... what would this abusive man do now?” Then, the man, taking the last cookie, split it in half, giving her one half.

What? That was way too much! She was furious now! In her anger, she insulted the man, grabbed her book and belongings, and stormed out to the boarding area. When she sat down in her seat inside the plane, she looked into her bag to grab her eyeglasses, and to her surprise, her packet of cookies was there—untouched and unopened! She felt so ashamed! She realized she was wrong. She had forgotten her cookies were in her bag. The man had shared his cookies with her without feeling anger or bitterness, while she had been very angry, thinking she was sharing her own cookies with him. And now, there was no chance to explain herself or to apologize!

In life, there are four things you cannot get back...

1. The cake... after it's eaten!
2. The word... after it's spoken!
3. The occasion... after it's lost!
4. The time... after it's gone!

Let's all be careful and watch our ATTITUDE ALWAYS. Let Christ increase in us, and we decrease.