

'SITTING AT THE FEET OF OTHERS' - 1 JULY 2018

13th Sunday Ordinary Time

Last Thursday, June 28th, Pope Francis delivered an inspiring homily to new Cardinals. He painted a picture of Christian leadership and authority for them, that can apply to all of us. During the homily he said,

"...In our journey towards Jerusalem, the Lord walks ahead of us, to keep reminding us that the only credible form of authority is born of sitting at the feet of others in order to serve Christ. It is the authority that comes from never forgetting that Jesus, before bowing his head on the cross, did not hesitate to bow down and wash the feet of the disciples. This is the highest honour that we can receive, the greatest promotion that can be awarded us: to serve Christ in God's faithful people. In those who are hungry, neglected, imprisoned, sick, suffering, addicted to drugs, cast aside. In real people, each with his or her own life story and experiences, hopes and disappointments, hurts and wounds. Only in this way, can the authority of the Shepherd have the flavour of Gospel and not appear as "a noisy gong or a clanging symbol" (1 Cor 13:1). None of us must feel "superior" to anyone. None of us should look down at others from above. The only time we can look at a person in this way is when we are helping them to stand up.... "

FRANCIS HOMILY IS FOR ALL OF US

The whole homily can be given to our parish councils, parish leadership, lay leaders, priests and deacons, deanery, Archdiocesan Agencies, finance councils, liturgy preparation teams, children's liturgy leaders, youth leaders, youth groups, school leadership teams, school boards, teachers and support staff, secretaries, maintenance people, P&Fs, Out of School Hours Care and all Centacare agencies, parish child safety officers, justice groups, care for creation groups, care and concern ministries, hospitality welcomers, parish social media ministry, refugee support groups, mothers' groups, asylum seekers helpers, mental health pastoral care groups, St Vincent de Paul groups, prayer groups, adult formation teams, counters, transport ministries, Archdiocesan prison ministries, hospital chaplains and pastoral care workers, church nursing services, those interested in sister parish relationships and overseas mission support, Caritas groups, CWL, counselling agencies, bereavement supports, those who advocate for justice and equality in their workplaces and clubs and interest groups and circles and wider church,

ministries at Mass (Readers, Ministers of Holy Communion, Coordinators, sacristans, musicians, singers etc),
prayer chain members **and many other ministries.**

The Code of Canon Law includes the functions
of laypeople, deacons, priests, bishops and others.
But we are more than our functions.

THE PEOPLE OF GOD

[The Code of Canon Law states that we are a part of the 'People of God'.](#)

Pope Francis says that our mission,

*“comes from never forgetting that Jesus,
before bowing his head on the cross,
did not hesitate to bow down and wash the feet of the disciples.”*

In our discernment Pope Francis reminds us from the Gospel that the

*“Evangelist does not shrink from disclosing secrets present
in the hearts of the disciples: their quest of honours, jealousy,
envy, intrigue, accommodation and compromise.
This kind of thinking not only wears and eats away at their relationship,
but also imprisons them in useless and petty discussions.
Yet Jesus is not concerned with this: he walks ahead of them and he keeps going.”*

As regards our church family, our church community, Pope Francis says,

*“When we forget the mission,
when we lose sight of the real faces of our brothers and sisters,
our life gets locked up in the pursuit of our own interests and securities.
Resentment then begins to grow, together with sadness and revulsion.
Gradually we have less and less room for others, for the Church community,
for the poor, for hearing the Lord’s voice.
Joy fades and the heart withers (cf. [Evangelii Gaudium, 2](#)).”*

HUMILITY TO SIT AT THE FEET OF JESUS CHRIST & PEOPLE IN NEED

We need the humility to sit at the feet of Christ and people in need.

Today as we celebrate **National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Sunday**,
the homily of Pope Francis is timely.

HOW DO WE SIT AT THE FEET

OF OUR ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER SISTERS AND BROTHERS?

And learn from them about their identity and spirituality, cultures, history,
dreams, concerns and challenges.

About the movement in Victoria for a treaty.

About their frustrations with Church.

GOSPEL OF MARK 5:21-43

Today's Gospel is a sandwich passage.

The account of the daughter of Jairus at the beginning and end of the passage.

And in the middle, the account of the woman

"suffering from haemorrhages for twelve years".

The suffering woman is healed by Jesus.

She has the **courage** to approach Jesus, trusting in his power, by touching his clothes.

When Jesus realizes his healing power has reached someone in the crowd, he seeks that person.

She doesn't know what Jesus will say, and though scared, she has the **courage** to come and kneel before him

"and told him the whole truth.

He said to her,

*'Daughter, your faith has made you well;
go in peace, and be healed of your disease.'"*

ACKNOWLEDGING INSPIRING INDIGENOUS WOMEN & MARY

Seeking truth, we are inspired by the anonymous woman in this passage,

And with this Sunday's national theme,

we acknowledge the inspiring Indigenous women and Mary in our lives.

I invite Aunty Cynthia Rowan, an Indigenous Elder

to reflect now on Mary, the mother of Jesus

and an inspiring woman in her own life.

Let us sit at the feet of Cynthia and listen.

Fr Gerry

[Readings: <http://www.usccb.org/bible/readings/070118.cfm>]

[Parish Facebook: <http://bit.ly/parishFacebook01072018>]

Other References:

Pope Francis Homily in English and in Arabic:

<http://bit.ly/FrancisCardinals28062018EN>

<http://bit.ly/FrancisCardinals28062018AR>

['People of God' referenced in Canon Law](#)

[NATSICC \(National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Catholic Council\)](#)

[NAIDOC \(National Aboriginal and Islander Day Observance Committee\)](#)

'Because of Her, We Can!' image | by Richard Campbell | [NATICC Liturgy Resources 2018](#)

