

Do you have a resume? Yes? No? Maybe? Some of us have put together resumes ... some of us will have to one day put together a resume.

In the military, we didn't have resumes ... or at least we didn't call them resumes. We called them "brag sheets."

Isn't that in effect what a resume is? I have these goals ... I have held these jobs ... I have this education ... I've received these honors ... I have these skills.

When I finished up with the military, I was having a conversation with my youngest brother. He was struggling with his resume; and said to me, "Well, with your background, you can certainly have your pick of any job you want."

Ironically, I thought the same of his background. I thought his resume looked pretty good, and mine pretty lousy ... and he thought the exact opposite.

In the Gospel, we hear spoken about Jesus "*Where did this man get all this?*" ... in other words, when Jesus goes home, the response he gets is "Who does he think he is?"

Then they enumerate his 'background' ... "*Is he not the carpenter, the son of Mary, and the brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon? And are not his sisters here with us?*"

And it continues, "And they took offense at him." The Greek word is: *σκανδαλίζω* (skandalizō) ... in other words, they were scandalized ... they couldn't make sense of who they thought he was, and this man they were hearing teach and preach and heal.

There is a big difference between who the world thinks Jesus is and who Christians think Jesus is ... and this has been at issue for 2,000 years.

If I were to choose a word to tie together the readings for this weekend, that word would be "humility." The English word 'humility' comes from the Latin word 'humilis' which means 'low.' And in turn the Latin word comes from a root meaning 'earth,' or 'dirt,' or 'soil.'

*Memento homo, quia pulvis es, et in pulverem reverteris.*

That is, "Remember (man), that you are dust and to dust you will return."

Remember where you come from.

If the people in the Gospel were asking about Jesus, "who does he think he is?" ... let us take this for our own reflection: "who do we think we are?"

St. Paul talks about "*a thorn in the flesh,*" to keep him from thinking too much about himself.

And further along, we receive this beautiful revelation, which St. Paul says he received from the Lord:

*“My grace is sufficient for you, for (my) power is made perfect in weakness.”*

Humility ... knowing our place before God ...

*“To you I lift up my eyes who are enthroned in heaven — as the eyes of servants are on the hands of their masters.”*

We all have a tough choice to make. Often, in engaging the culture, we become too much like the culture. But through humility, we can know who we are ... we can remember who we are ... and in turn, remember who God is ... who Jesus Christ is ... to us.

So let us take this as our reflection this week ... and let us ask God in prayer to let us see ourselves as God sees us ... beloved children of the Father, adopted in Jesus Christ, and filled with the Holy Spirit.