

OCTOBER 23, 2016



THIRTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



SIRACH 35:12-14, 16-18

PSALM 34:2-3, 17-18, 19, 23

2 TIMOTHY 4:6-8, 16-18

LUKE 18:9-14

REFLECTION

"O God, be merciful to me a sinner" (Luke 18:13). Today's Gospel reading from Luke presents us with an interesting parable from Jesus about two individuals, both praying in different ways. The Pharisee begins his prayer by thanking God but quickly shifts his attention to himself, promoting all of his seemingly positive attributes and thanking God that he is not "those other people." The tax collector recognizes his own brokenness and asks for God's divine mercy to enter his life. Both men are praying but they each have different motivations and different worldviews. In an interview published six months into his papacy, Pope Francis was asked the question, "Who is Jorge Mario Bergoglio (his name before becoming pope)?" His response: "I am a sinner. This is the most accurate definition . . . I am a sinner whom the Lord has looked upon" (*America*, September 30, 2013). Amazing: a man who is the leader of 1.2 billion Catholics around the world responds with great humility! He could have easily said something like, "I am the pope!" or "I am a great and holy man, the Vicar of Christ!" But he did not. His response was a simple, humble recognition, "I am a sinner."



"LITANY OF
HUMILITY"

**DANIELLE
ROSE**

ACTION

Throughout this week, take some time to examine your own life. How often do you slip into the mindset of the self-righteous Pharisee? Do you compare yourself to your classmates, friends, people you meet on the street? It seems to be a part of our human nature, often reinforced by our society, to take on this persona. Sure, it is good to strive for success and to do well in school and in work, but how do we reflect this in our lives? How do we look upon others around us? Reflect upon how you act humbly in your day to day activities. Do you focus on God's mercy in prayer? Do you recognize your own brokenness? Do you acknowledge you need God's help?

JOURNALING QUESTIONS

- How can you cultivate an attitude of humility in your life? Would this make a difference for you? Why or why not?