

Pastoral Reflection
Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Today's readings point to humility. This isn't a wise interpretation on my part, the word actually appears in each of the readings! What does it mean to be humble? I think it means to put others before yourself when it really counts. However, in our world, humility won't get you very far. Zephaniah talks of the "remnant of Israel," who seek God and justice and humility. Paul talks of the foolish and weak shaming the wise and strong; those who count for nothing bringing down those who are something. It seems just the opposite of what is going on now in our world and even in our Church. How many people do you know who live the Beatitudes? Who have the attitude of poorness in spirit? Who allow themselves to be persecuted for righteousness? In a few weeks, we will have a sharing session on clericalism here at St. Cronan. The committee organizing the session define "clericalism" as the "Attitude and practice that ordained ministers are better than and set above everyone else in the Church." I don't think the clergy are the only ones who succumb to clericalism, but I believe that the clericalism we witness can be the exact opposite of the beatitudes. Let's work to change our attitudes. Let us pray that we can be what Christ calls us to be.

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