HUMBLE BEGINNINGS, NOBLE HERITAGE!

Humility which is close in meaning as being 'poor in spirit' stands out among other virtues in the readings this weekend. The prophet Zephaniah says, 'seek the Lord all you the humble of the earth who obey his commands. Seek integrity, seek humility...' (cf. Zeph 2:3; 3:12-13). The second reading from the first letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians reminds us of our humble beginnings. It also tells us of our noble heritage. The choice God has made of us has bequeathed this noble heritage on us. (Cf. 1Cor 1:26-31) In the words of St Paul, 'The human race has nothing to boast about to God, but you, God has made members of Christ Jesus and by God’s doing he has become our wisdom, and our virtue, and our holiness, and our freedom.' In the Gospel, our Blessed Lord teaches us, 'How happy are the poor in spirit, theirs is the kingdom of heaven. (Mt 5:1-12).

Beloved People of God, humility remains a virtue that we cannot do without as Christians, children of God. The blessings that follow the humble are innumerable and unquantifiable. Humility offers shelter on the day of the Lord's anger. As the Gospel has it, the kingdom of heaven belongs to the poor in spirit...the humble of heart. Indeed, all the other virtues are easy to pray for, to receive and nurture. Being gentle, merciful, yearning for justice and righteousness, seeking and accepting peace, all comes easy to the humble.

We pray to be among the Holy remnant who are being referred to in the words, 'in your midst, I will leave a humble and lowly people...who will seek refuge in the Lord...those will do no wrong, tell no lies...those that will be able to graze and rest with no one to disturb them' (cf. Zeph3:12-13). May we be numbered among those whose reward will be great in heaven. Amen.

Fr. Ted

All To Jesus Through Mary Our Mother.

4th Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

29th January 2023