

Fourteen Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year A

[Zechariah 9:9-10; Rm. 8:9, 11-13; Mt. 11:25-30]

Excerpts from Pope Francis – Angelus - 09 July 2023

by Father Charles Fillion

05 July 2026

Brothers and sisters, today the Gospel contains a very beautiful prayer of Jesus, who addresses the Father, saying, “I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants” (*Mt* 11:25). But what things is Jesus talking about? And then, who are these “infants” to whom such things are revealed?

Let us reflect on this: on the things for which Jesus praises his Father and on the “infants” who know how to welcome them. Just before this, the Lord had recalled some of his works — “the blind receive their sight [...], lepers are cleansed [...], the poor have good news preached to them” (*Mt* 11:5) — and revealed their meaning, saying that these are the signs that God is at work in the world.

The message, then, is clear: God reveals himself by liberating and healing the human person. Let us not forget this: God reveals himself by liberating and healing the human person, and he does this with a love that saves. This is why Jesus praises his father, because his greatness consists in love and he never works outside of love.

But this *greatness in love* is not understood by those who presume to be great and who fabricate a god in their own image — powerful, inflexible, vindictive. In other words, those who are arrogant are not able to accept God as Father; those who are full of themselves, proud, concerned only about their own interests convinced they do not need anyone.

We did not hear the verses between last Sunday and today. Jesus names the inhabitants of three rich cities of his time: Chorazin, Bethsaida, Capernaum, where he had accomplished many healings, but whose inhabitants remained indifferent to his preaching. For them, his miracles were only spectacular events, useful for making news and feeding gossip. Once passing interest in them was over, they archived them, maybe in order to occupy themselves with other novelties of the moment. They did not know how to welcome the great things of God.

The little children, infants, instead, know how to welcome them, and Jesus praises the Father for them: “I thank you,” he says, because you have revealed the Kingdom of Heaven to the little ones, infants. Jesus praises him for the simple people whose hearts are free from presumption. The little ones are those who, like children, feel their need and are not self-sufficient. They are open to God and allow themselves to be amazed at his works. They know how to read his signs, to marvel at the miracles of his love!

I ask all of you, and even myself, do we know how to marvel at the things of God or do we take them for passing things? Brothers and sisters, if we think about it, our lives are filled with miracles. They are filled with deeds of love, signs of God's goodness. Before these, however, even our hearts can remain indifferent and become routine, curious but not capable of being amazed, of allowing themselves to be "impressed". A closed heart, an armoured heart, is incapable of being amazed.

To impress is a beautiful verb that brings to mind photographic film. This is the correct behaviour to have before God's works: to take a photograph of his works in our minds so that they may be impressed in our hearts, and then developed in our lives through many good deeds, so that this "photograph" of God, who is love, becomes ever brighter in us and through us.

To finish, I give you some homework, questions to ponder. In the deluge of news that overwhelms us, do I, as Jesus shows us today, know how to stop before the great things of God, those that God accomplishes? Do I allow myself to marvel like a child, like an infant, at the good that silently changes the world? Or have I lost the ability to be amazed? And do I bless God the Father each day for his works?

May this eucharist make us capable of being amazed by his love and of praising him with simplicity.