

February 5, 2023
Pastor's Column

We continue with our second of four reflections on the four virtues that will support our community as we approach the final decisions regarding All Things New. Last week, we reflected on Fidelity; this week, we reflect on the virtue of Docility.

Simply stated the virtue of Docility is defined as the ability, or the willingness, to be led or taught. Here's an image to demonstrate Docility: 'breaking' a wild horse and training it to be ridden or used for some task or job. In order to train the horse, the trainer uses strategies, instruments, and practiced routines to 'break' the horse so that it will take the bridle and bit. Once it's trained to take the bridle and bit, you can lead the horse without either chaos or harm to both rider and the horse.

As a Christian virtue, Docility is closely related to humility. The opposing vices would be pride, stubbornness and incorrigibility. If Docility is the ability and willingness to be taught and led, then the vices say, 'you're not the boss of me'; 'I know best and better than you'; and 'no one tells me what to do.' None of these are attractive and all of them wound any bond of love, cooperation, and community that exists between parties.

All Things New is a large scale systemic and systematic process of reorganizing how we 'do Church'. Smart and talented and professional people who have studied and mastered the ways to 'do Church' have developed this process so that 'doing Church' can be maximized, efficient and effective. There are two fundamental principles of 'doing Church'. These come directly from Scripture, and are reinforced by the teachings and traditions of the Catholic Church. First: to celebrate the Sacraments and preach the Gospel, in order to, second, make Disciples. Everything else the church does is secondary to these two primary and fundamental missions. The smart and talented and professional people who have studied these things have proposed a new model for us; a new way of 'doing Church' even as the Church continues to contract and integrate itself into a growing society that is more and more secular.

However, and this is the important place for prayer: the "Church" is not some disembodied institution. The Church is constituted by the Body of Christ, with Christ as our Head, we are members, the parts of the body and together we make up the Church. We are the church! Christ is our Head, our Leader, and those appointed to lead and guide and teach after His Example and at His Command are given the charge to fulfill the mission of the Church by making Disciples through the Preaching of the Gospel and the Celebration of the Sacraments.

And what's our part? To follow. To be led, guided and taught. To collaborate and discern with humility and docility. To be open and vulnerable. To cultivate a community of church beyond ourselves and our parish boundaries. To sublimate the self and take on holy deference. To remember the universal call to holiness and to make disciples through the way we 'preach' the Gospel by our lives, our words and actions.

Lead us, Lord, by the Light of Truth. May Mary, our Queen of Peace intercede for us for the gift of Docility. May be led to the greenest and safest of pastures where the Good Shepherd only wants to go.