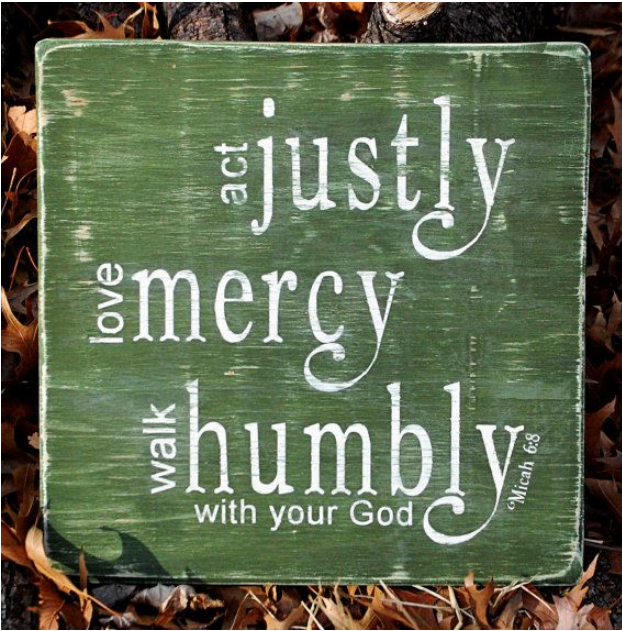


Humble Enough...



Some time ago in Florida, the St. Petersburg Times carried an interesting story about Don Shula, the coach of the Miami Dolphins.

He was vacationing with his family in a small town in northern Maine. One afternoon it was raining. So Shula, his wife, and his five children decided to attend a matinee movie in the town's only theater.

When they arrived, the house lights were still on in the theater. There were only six other people present. When Shula and his family walked in, all six people stood up and applauded. He waved and smiled.

As Shula sat down, he turned to his wife and said, *"We are a thousand miles from Miami and they're giving me a standing ovation. They must get the Dolphins on television all the way up here."*

Then a man came up to shake Don Shula's hand. Shula beamed and said, *"How did you recognize me?"* The man replied, *"Mister, I don't know who you are. All I know is that just before you and your family walked in the theater manager told us that unless four more people showed up we wouldn't have a movie today."*

I like that story because it clarifies the teaching of Jesus, that our Christian commitment calls us to be humble servants. It calls us to be the kind of Christian that Don Shula showed himself to be in that story.

Here was a man whose reputation extended across the country, not only as an excellent coach but also as an excellent human being. It was only natural for Shula to think that the man who came over to shake his hand knew who he was. When it turned out that he didn't, Shula was the first to laugh at himself. In fact, he enjoyed the incident so much that he shared it with others. Only a humble person would do a thing like that.

In fact, humility isn't thinking little of ourselves, or putting ourselves down. Humility means to be like Jesus, who said, ***"Learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart"*** (Mt 11:29), and who also said, ***"The Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve"*** (Mk 10:45). Humility means to live as Jesus lived – not for ourselves, but for others. It means to use our talents as Jesus used his – not for ourselves and our own glory, but for others and their needs.

Thank you for the times you love and serve from the heart, within your family, your community, your school, your work place... and beyond, without much fuss... reaching out to others... especially to sisters and brothers overseas where the need is even greater and more urgent... especially in time of pandemics...

With deep gratitude: blessings and peace,

Fr. Mark & the Xaverian Missionaries