

*Third Sunday after Epiphany*

January 21, 2018

In today's Gospel (Matt 8:5-13), we are given a beautiful example of humility in the Roman officer who begs our Lord Jesus to heal his sick servant. Though a non-Jew and a man of great authority and power, the centurion directly approaches our Lord, a Galilean. Immediately upon hearing the centurion's heartfelt request, our Lord assures him, "I will come and cure him." With even greater humility and boundless confidence, the centurion answers him: "Lord, I am not worthy that You should come under my roof; but only say the word, and my servant will be healed." And marveling at his great faith, Jesus declares: "Amen I say to you, I have not found such great faith in Israel."

St. Paul reminds us in today's Epistle (Rom 12:16-21) not to be wise in our own conceits (vs 16). That means, among other things, realizing how desperately we need our Lord and doing whatever we possibly can to humbly receive His saving grace, especially in the sacraments, and to generously cooperate with it. We greatly please Jesus by sincerely admitting our powerlessness and helplessness and confidently begging Him to heal our souls. That is what the centurion did, and we who are followers of Christ can do nothing less. Then, as we pray in today's Offertory, we truly shall "live, and shall declare the works of the Lord" (Ps 117:17).

*Rev. Charles Van Vliet, FSSP*

*Pastor, Regina Caeli Parish*