

**25th Sunday in  
Ordinary Time  
September 22-23,  
2018**

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## **Living Catholic in the 808: Real Greatness is Found in Giving Way**

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Rector, Cathedral Basilica of  
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The desire for greatness is deep within the human psyche. We want to look good and sometimes be better than others. While this desire can be helpful if it motivates legitimate achievement and personal betterment, it can easily lead to selfish behavior and insensitivity. A perfect example of this is played out in today's gospel; Jesus is speaking about personal suffering and the disciples are speaking about personal superiority. As Jesus gently responds to their misguided ambition, he teaches them and us where real greatness is found.

Real greatness is found in giving up. When we can sacrifice for another or for an important cause, we demonstrate that "largeness of heart" that is essential in the lives of those who follow Christ. When we give of our time, talent, or treasure we acknowledge that all that we have is a gift and that we are called to be good stewards of these gifts by sharing them with others. As Jesus indicates by using a child as an example, it is especially important to give to those who are not able to repay you. Children will never be able to fully repay their parents or those who have loved them and given them life.

Real greatness is found in giving way. Giving way means allowing others to shine. Giving way means resisting the desire to always be first, especially when that desire is at the expense of others. It is to acknowledge and affirm the gifts of others. Christ humbled himself in order that we might experience the greatness of God's love. How is God calling you and me to be more humble?

Real greatness is found in giving in. Jesus singles out a child to remind us that we must be more child-like. He is not encouraging immaturity. He is encouraging us to admit that ultimately we are dependent on God for all that we have and are. Just as children must let go and let their parents and guardians take care of them, we must let God's power and love sustain our lives.