SCRIPTURE QUOTE TO MEMORISE:

For Yahweh loves his people, he will crown the humble with salvation.

(Psalm 149:4)

Today's readings focus on this. In Sirach, we are encouraged to act with humility. This is the way whereby we will be loved more than the bearer of gifts. **The humbler we are, the greater we become** and we will find favour with God. Humility removes the obstacles of faith. It is in humbleness that we are open to the teachings of Christ and the traditions of the Church. It makes us a worthy recipient of God's grace. "God opposes the proud but He accords His favour to the humble" (Jam 4:6). Humility is therefore a virtue for our salvation. And in the second reading, we are given an insight of the festal gathering in the heavenly Jerusalem which awaits us all.

Jesus' parable is a great lesson in Christian humility. We must not claim so much importance as to place ourselves in a prominent position in our community, but to wait in humility to be given that recognition by others. Clearly, Jesus says to us that everyone who exalts himself will be humbled and the one who humbles himself will be made great, in God's eyes. This would not be the first time His followers are hearing this, and not the last either. He offers himself as a role model: "learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart "(Matt 11:29). Our Blessed Mother Mary is also an epitome of humility.

We rejoice and exult before God with the psalmist singing: God is good, He has made a home for the poor and the needy. We bear in mind that in the same parable, Jesus too tells us that we need to reach out to those on the fringes of society, the ones who have no means to offer us anything. We do not give only to those who can reward us, for from them we would already have our repayment on earth. The prize which we must seek will be for our salvation where we will be seated at the high table of the Lord's banquet.

SCRIPTURE *of the* DAY

Sirach (Ecclesiasticus) 3: 17-20, 28-29;

Psalms 67: 4-7, 10-11;

Hebrew 12: 18-19, 22-24;

Luke 14: 1, 7-14.

INTERNAL CIRCULATION ONLY
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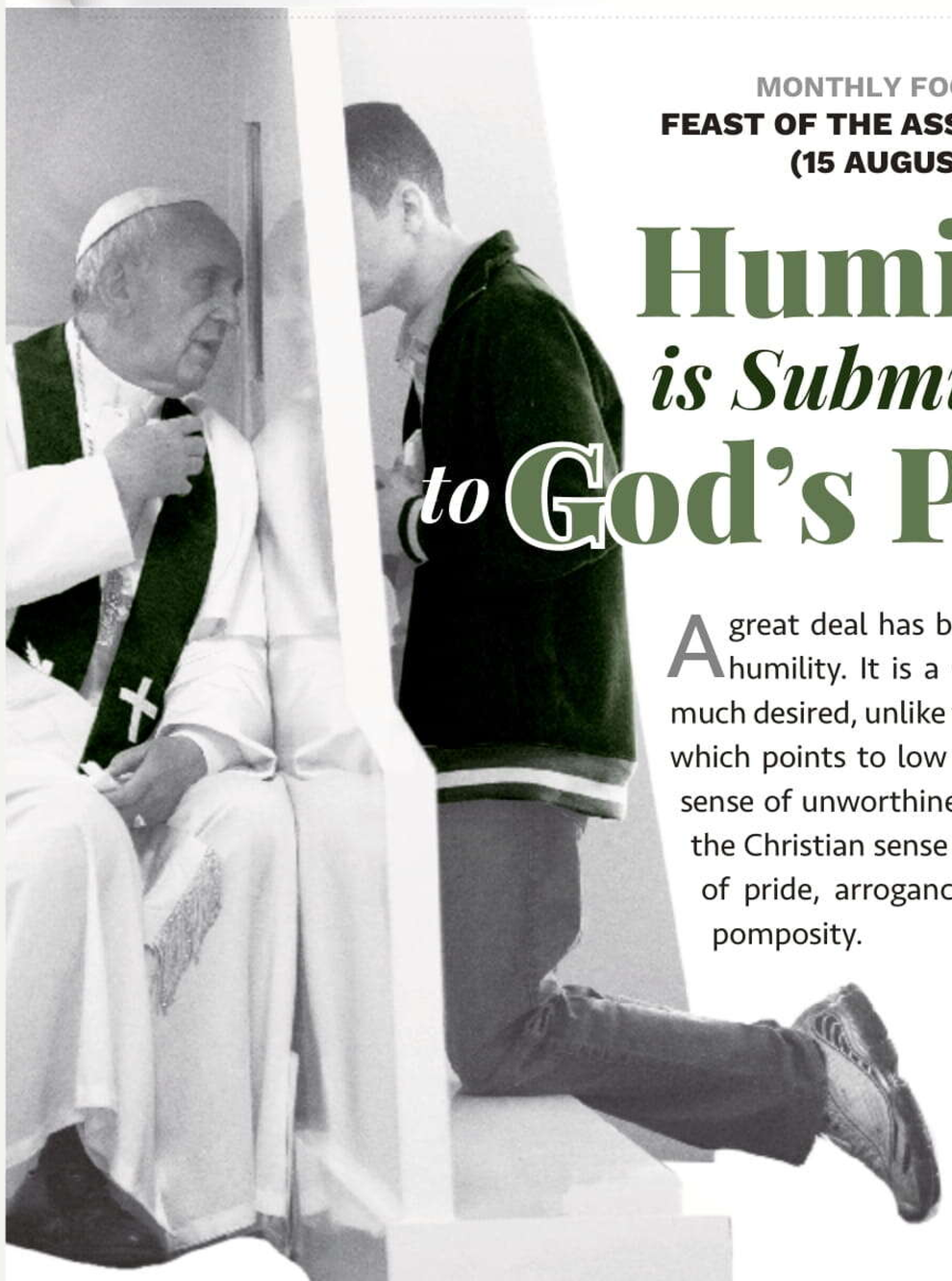
Newbec

NEW WAY OF BEING CHURCH

22nd Sunday of Ordinary Time

SALT OF THE EARTH AND LIGHT OF THE WORLD: COMMUNION, PARTICIPATION AND MISSION



MONTHLY FOCUS:
FEAST OF THE ASSUMPTION (15 AUGUST)

Humility *is Submitting to* God's Plan

A great deal has been said about humility. It is a Christian value much desired, unlike the secular one which points to low self-esteem or sense of unworthiness. Humility in the Christian sense is the opposite of pride, arrogance, conceit and pomposity.