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Based on the gospel for 19 September, Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time: Mark 9:30-37

“Anyone who wants to be first, he must make himself last of all and servant of all.”

Who is the greatest? Jesus warns the disciples of the dangers of pride and urges them to follow a path towards humility.

It is very normal to feel pride in an achievement, particularly if it is hard won, but we should avoid boasting about it, especially in a way that belittles others .

The life journey of a Christian involves trying to become more Christ-like. It is a long, hard journey and a key part of that is becoming more humble – less worldly.

The disciples, who were close to Jesus, found it difficult and so it is not surprising that we do too. Nevertheless, it is a path we are called to follow.

We try, as in Colossians 3:12, to clothe ourselves in “compassion, in generosity and humility, gentleness and patience.” We try not to look only inwardly to our own interests but also outwardly to the interests of the others.

As humans we are interdependent. We are also dependent on and must be good stewards to the earth our common home.

We are called to play a positive part in the solutions to the many issues facing humanity today. It is not for us to sit on the side lines hoping that someone else will address these issues, but rather to become actively involved in accordance with our ability to do so. And to do this in a selfless, humble manner considering the needs of others before those of ourselves.

Lord of all creation, help us to become more like you in our care for other people and our care of our common home. Amen.



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This reflection and prayer were written by Trevor Stockton, a CAFOD volunteer from Wolverhampton.



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