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Some foreign tourists one day visited the home of Beethoven. A young woman among them brazenly sat down at the great composer's piano and began to play his Moonlight Sonata. After she had finished, she turned to the old caretaker and said. 'I suppose a great many musicians visit this place every year'. 'Yes', he replied. 'Paderewski, the famous polish pianist, was here last year.' 'And did he play Beethoven's Piano', she asked. 'No' he said, 'he didn't consider himself worthy'

As part of our fallen human nature there is a tendency to get ourselves noticed for what we do for others or who we are. In contrast Jesus says that when we do some good deed for someone we are not to have it trumpeted before us to win the admiration of others. Jesus gave us eight beatitudes but flicking through a spiritual book recently I noticed where the Devil also has beatitudes. One of them runs: Blessed are those who wait to be asked and expect to be thanked for all they do, I can use them. That doesn't at all mean we don't show appreciation for the help others give us.

People generally don't like being overlooked – it's a blow to their vanity. But if it happens, perhaps we can see it as a grace making us more like Jesus who chose to be last of all.

It is interesting to note that after Jesus performed a miracle, he often made a quick exit from the scene. He knew the people might be tempted to turn him a hero for the wrong reasons which could easily go to his head.

On one occasion His mother seems to have put him on the spot by asking him to turn water into wine. Jesus was obviously embarrassed by being asked to perform a quick, on-the-spot miracle and told his mother Mary to ease up, because it wasn't the right moment, but like all mothers she had the last word. Here we see Jesus being humble enough to forego his own

wishes in favour of His mother's while at the same time keeping quiet about the miracle he'd just performed. There are times in lives when we'll be asked to forego our own wishes whilst, at the same time keeping quiet about our achievements.

St Martin De Pores was a Franciscan friar who was assigned the menial task of answering the door of the friary to all and sundry. Through doing this lowly task with care and diligence he achieved sainthood. If we have to do less than glamorous tasks, let them be done with a good heart and for the love of God.

The present Pope when he was Archbishop used travel round on the local buses. He lived on a one bedroom flat and mostly did his own cooking. With Francis in the See of Peter, I get the feeling that the Lord is calling us to be a humble church where we identify more with the day to day lives of ordinary people.

"Learn of me", Jesus says, "because I am meek and humble of heart". In the world to come those who took the lowest place in this life will be asked to move up higher.