

**Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> December 2021**



My dear brothers and sisters,

Greetings to you and your families. As we enter into the final week of Advent, I wish you a blessed and peaceful time of reflection and prayer.

Like so many, we too are caught up in the hustle and bustle of Christmas preparations making sure that everything is perfect. We go to such great lengths to buy that special gift, purchase all the trimmings, dress the tree, send out Christmas cards and much more. In short, we go the extra distance to make this one day count. With this in mind, I have a reflection that conveys a little message that speaks to our heart.

#### Attention to the Smallest Detail

A lady worked as a janitor in a company for many years. Being a janitor is a pretty thankless job, which many of us might consider as a "dirty" job or at least pretty far down the pole. In other words, probably not a lot of fun.

It happened that the company changed owners. Within a few days, the new owner wrote a personal thank you card to every employee in the company.

When this lady received and opened her card, she burst into tears. She asked if she could be excused from work. Thinking she was sick, she was allowed leave for the rest of the day.

So what really happened?

They found out a few days later - she had never received even a verbal thank you from the previous owners and management - let alone a personal card for the 20 to 30 years she had worked there.

So she was really touched when the new owner sent her a card of appreciation.

She had been thinking that the change of ownership would probably be a good time for her to quit.

She was planning to let them know that very day but that never happened.

Why? Because the little time, the little extra effort of the owner to send a little business thank you card, helped the lady change her mind.

Pay attention to this "Small" detail. Go the extra mile. Thank your stars, and pray for them. You're a star when you do.

Sometimes saying it is not enough. You can document it with a simple thank you card or note.

Then send it on it's way - with a prayer - to touch the hearts and lives of your family and friends. And your customers, partners, employees, suppliers and so many others we often take for granted.

When we stop and take the time to really think about all those people in our lives that we should thank, we discover something quite incredible. Sometimes, we don't need everything to be perfect, we just need to be appreciated and valued.

If this story resonates with you, then I encourage you to go that extra mile this week and appreciate those in your life.

As always, I end my message with love and prayers for you and your families.

May God continue to bless and guide your decisions always.

Yours, Rev Fr Nicholas