

*Humble yourself the more,  
the greater you are, and you will  
find mercy in the sight of God.*

SIRACH 3:18

## I'm Nobody! Who Are You?

**T**his is the title of one of Emily Dickinson's most beloved poems. Did she really think she was nobody? Probably not. But neither was she eager to get bogged down by the approval of others. She seems to have been satisfied with who she was and how she lived her life.

Unlike Dickinson, many of us live for the approval of others. In fact, we almost glorify celebrities—and not simply for their accomplishments. Their taste becomes our choice in buying clothes; their opinions shape our thinking; their social life becomes our entertainment. This is a strange turnaround, for the only reason they are famous is that we have given them our approval. We made them celebrities.

We all know people who, in the eyes of the broader society, might be considered “nobodies” but who really are the “somebodies.” They are like Dickinson. They know who they are and do not pretend to be someone or something else. They do not put on airs; they do not expect to be treated better than others. They simply are who they are. These are the people described in today's readings. They have lived as Sirach counsels: “Humble yourself” (Sirach 3:18). This does not mean humiliate yourself or put yourself down. It means be who you are, the *you* that God made. Don't try to be someone else. The Gospel story shows what might happen if you think you are more than you really are. The proud man was literally put in his place.

So, who are you?

*Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA*

### FOR *Reflection*

- ★ *What do you do to gain other's approval? Does that change who you are?*
- ★ *How often do you describe yourself as better than others? Is it true?*