

Don Shula, the well known coach of the Miami Dolphins football team was vacationing with his family in a small town in Northern Maine. One rainy afternoon, Shula, his wife Marianne, and their five children decided to go to the only movie theatre in the town for a matinee show.

When they

arrived, the house lights were still up in the theatre. There were only 6 other people in the room. As the Shula clan walked in, the other six people burst into applause. He waved at them and smiled. As he sat down he commented to his wife, “Thousands of miles away from Miami and they are applauding for me. They must be Dolphin fans.”

Then one of the six came over to shake the coach’s hand, and the coach said, “I appreciate the welcome; How did you recognize me?”

The man looked a little puzzled and said, “Mister, I don’t know who you are. All I know is that just before you walked in the manager told us that unless four more people showed up we wouldn’t have a movie today.”

Talk about a moment of humility. And yet Don Shula was able to laugh at himself and be gracious about the experience. This week end our readings talk about the importance that humility plays in the life of a Christian. To be a humble person means to live as Jesus lived, not for ourselves but for others; To set aside our own wants in an effort to address the needs of others.

This brings to mind another story, one that comes from the cartoonist Charles Schulz. When he created the character Charlie Brown he based it on a gentleman who he had worked with in the Bureau of Engraving in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Eventually the men went there

separate ways. Schulz became a cartoonist and Charlie Brown became a counselor who worked with convicted juvenile delinquents. He often would bring these young people into his own home. Charlie Brown was a devout Roman Catholic who would spend hours talking to these troubled souls in hopes of guiding them onto a better path. A co worker of his said that often the doorbell and the phone would ring late at night with some youngster asking for Charlie Brown. The coworker also added that not one young person who lived with Charlie ever went back to prison and that reputation made him a popular speaker in lecture halls and at workshops. Charles Schulz kept in touch with his friend and many times offered him some residuals from the Peanuts success. But Charlie never accepted a dollar. Nor did he ever volunteer to anyone that

he was the original Charlie Brown. In 1983, Charlie Brown died of cancer and to this day, those youngsters who came late at night ringing the doorbell at the Detention center asking, "Is Charlie Brown there?" had no idea who they were asking for.

And Jesus said, "Learn from me for I am meek and humble of heart. The Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve. Go now and do the same"