

32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time



THE GOSPEL Mark 12:38-44 or 12:41-44

*Many rich people put in large sums.
A poor widow also came and put in two small coins
worth a few cents.*

Two coins were all she had.
No attention, no reward
no place of honor.

She gave all
she had.

Was it
trust
or
love?

Jesus,
give us grace
not to count the cost.
Help us let go of our coins.
Take all that we own and all we are.
We ask that your grace be enough for us.

THE FIRST READING 1 Kings 17:10-16

*She answered, I have nothing baked, there is
only a handful of flour in my jar
and a little oil in my jug.*

Lord,
give us help
to do what you ask,

to bake just a bit of bread;
to offer our entire lives
feeding the hungry,
securing justice
for oppressed,
end the crisis
of climate
change.

Let us trust your promises
just as the widow
trusted.

Her jars of flour did not go empty,
nor did her jugs of oil
run dry. (*Annie Osdieck*)

THE SECOND READING Hebrews 9:24-28

*But now once for all he has appeared at the end of the ages
to take away sin by his sacrifice.*

Christ
offered himself
on our behalf
forever.

And
he took away
the sins of the world.

Deo Gratias.

REFLECTION: Teaching Us Charity

Today's liturgy reveals some important facts about the poor.

1) The poor are blessed because they have a greater recognition of their need for God. The two widows in the readings give up everything, totally trusting in the goodness of the Lord.

2) The poor are therefore more generous than others. Jesus made it very clear that "this poor widow contributed more than all the others who donated to the treasury." Recent

studies in the United States reveal the same phenomenon: relative to their resources, lower income people are the most generous.

3) The poor may or may not have society on their side, but there is no doubt where God stands: the Lord “secures justice for the oppressed, gives food to the hungry, sets captives free, gives sight to the blind, raises up those that were bowed down, protects strangers, and sustains the fatherless and the widow.” ([Responsorial Psalm](#))

Those among us who are not poor receive the challenge to be poor in spirit. We pray at the start of this liturgy for freedom of spirit “... so that we may more willingly give our lives in service to all.”

In teaching us charity, the Gospel instructs us in the preferential respect due to the poor and the special situation they have in society: the more fortunate should renounce some of their rights so as to place their goods more generously at the service of others.

Pope Paul VI, [Octogesima Adveniens](#), 1971:23

Gerald Darring