

Fr. Romeo Evangelista Homily
Sunday, November 10, 2024
32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time
Cycle B

We have all heard stories of extraordinary generosity – people giving away their fortunes, building schools, hospitals, or funding charities. These acts are inspiring, and we thank God for such generosity. But today’s readings remind us of another type of giving, one that may not make the headlines: the quiet, sacrificial giving of someone who does not have much but offers everything they have with love and trust in God.

In today’s gospel reading, Jesus highlights the poor widow who, despite her poverty, gave two small coins – everything she had to live on. This sacrificial act draws our attention because it mirrors something even greater: the sacrifice of Jesus himself. The contrast in the Gospel between the rich who gave out of their abundance and the poor widow who gave from her poverty is striking: the rich gave large sums, but it did not cost them much. The widow, however, offered all she had – two small coins. Jesus did not measure her gift by its size, but by the sacrifice it represented. She gave, not from her excess but from her very livelihood, trusting that God would provide for her needs.

Similarly, we see another widow, this time at Zarephath, who, during a time of famine, is asked by the prophet Elijah to give him her last bit of food. She only has enough flour and oil to make a small meal for herself and her son, but Elijah asks her to trust in God's promise. Despite her desperate situation, she sacrifices her last meal, and in return, God blesses her with a miraculous supply of food.

Both widows teach us that sacrificial giving is not about the amount; it is about trusting God completely and putting others' needs ahead of our own. Sacrificial giving is not just about money; it is about our entire approach to life. Jesus himself gave the ultimate example of sacrificial giving – he gave not just part of himself, but his entire life, out of love for us. His death on the cross is the greatest act of love and sacrifice the world has ever known.

The widow's gift is a reflection of Jesus' own self-giving. She holds nothing back, just as Christ held nothing back on the cross. Sacrificial giving means giving not only from our abundance but from the very core of who we are, trusting that God's grace will sustain us. The Lord Jesus gave everything, and he asks us to do the same in our own lives. He does not ask

for grand gestures, but for the simplicity of a heart that gives, just as the widow gave her two coins, trusting in God's providence.

Many of us might not feel like we have much to give. We might not be wealthy, and we might not have an abundance of free time. But sacrificial giving is not limited to money or grand gestures – it is about how we offer our lives to God and to others, even in small ways. We are called to give not just from our abundance, but in ways that might cost us – cost us time, comfort or convenience.

This is true Christian generosity. It is not about waiting until we have enough to give, but about giving even when it's difficult, trusting that God will take care of us.

Jesus sees beyond the outward appearance of our gifts and looks into our hearts. He knows the sacrifices we make, even if they are small and unnoticed by others. Today, let us take inspiration from the widows in our readings and from Christ himself, who gave everything out of love for us. Let us ask for the grace to give not just from our abundance but from our hearts, trusting that God will bless and multiply even the smallest act of sacrificial giving.

As Mother Teresa put it, “It is not how much we give, but how much love we put into giving.”

True love is sacrificial, like the widow who gave from her poverty, and like Christ on the cross.