



8 November 2009
32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Dear Parishioners,

In her book, **No Greater Love** Mother Teresa tells a story about a family with eight children who have not eaten for days. And she writes:

I took some food with me and went. When I came to that family I saw the faces of those little children disfigured by hunger. There was no sorrow or sadness in their faces, just the deep pain of hunger. I gave the rice to the mother. She divided the rice in two, and went out, carrying half the rice. When she came back, I asked her, “Where did you go?” She gave me this simple answer, “To my neighbors; they are hungry also!” I was not surprised that she gave—poor people are really very generous. (p. 39)

The generosity Mother Teresa encountered in this woman with barely nothing reminds me of the poor widow we hear about this weekend in the Gospel of Mark (12: 41-44) who gives “from her poverty”.

This weekend, too, we are reminded of the importance of our stewardship at Our Lady of the Lake Parish. Annually, this is that time of year when we’re asked to honestly evaluate our giving: the ways we give of ourselves through our “time, talent and treasure”.

What motivated the woman in Mother Teresa’s story and the poor widow in the Gospel of Mark? To my eyes, both had every right to hold onto the little they had for themselves. And yet, they give. Why?

The woman who gives half her rice away seems to recognize something of her self in that other family: both share the same plight. She sees what all of us ought to see: that we are responsible one to another since we share one common origin.

And the widow who gives toward the Temple seems to recognize that all she possesses is due to the generosity of God. God gives all, and we must give in return. She shows us that we are on this earth not to get, but to give. That honors God more than anything.

As we reflect on the ways we give of ourselves to this parish, may we learn from both women whose generosity made a difference and moved hearts. Are we willing to make a difference?

Sincerely,

Father Tim Clark