



Our Parish COMMUNITY

November 7, 2021

Thirty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time (B)

1 Kgs 17:10–16

Heb 9:24–28

Mk 12:38–44 or 12:41–44



[Jesus said,] "Amen, I say to you, this poor widow put in more than all the other contributors to the treasury."

MARK 12:43

Ouch!

That's the sound of someone giving until it hurts. Most of us probably will never be in such a situation. It's not that we don't give, but that we are seldom asked to give until it really hurts.

The women in today's readings were in desperate straits. They hurt even before they opened their hands to give. Both belonged to one of the groups of vulnerable people often identified in the Bible—namely, the resident alien, the orphan, and the widow. Since the social structure of a patriarchal society is usually built on male kinship, those with no male patron were extraordinarily vulnerable. Consequently, Jewish law made special provision for them (see Deuteronomy 24:17, 19–21; 26:12–13; 27:19). The women in these stories were disadvantaged because they were women, they were widows, and they were

poor. How these deprivations interacted with each other isn't specifically mentioned.

It's not their state of deprivation that makes them models for us to emulate. It's their generosity *despite* their deprivation. The widows featured in today's readings gave from their hearts, not from their abundance. They recognized need in another and did what they could to address that need. That is the virtue set before us today. It is, indeed, heroic!

Do we do what we can to help others in need—as little as that might be? Or do we cling to what we have, to what we say we have a right to have because we worked for it? Are we that uncaring? Ouch! That hurts!

Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

FOR *Reflection*

- ★ How open are you to the needs of others?
- ★ How generous does this make you?

Dear Padre,

My mother divorced, then remarried a non-Catholic. Her first marriage was never annulled. She says if she can't take Communion, there's no difference between watching Mass on TV and attending Mass in a church. I think there's a difference, and she should go to Mass in a church with other Catholics. Your thoughts?

It's a good sign that your mother is watching Mass on television instead of skipping Mass altogether, but you're right.

Television Masses are a viable option for Catholics who are physically unable to attend Mass, but if your mother is physically able, it's a different matter. When it comes to worship, there's nothing like being there, and by attending the liturgy with other Catholics every week and on holy days, she'll fulfill her obligation by virtue of baptism in "fully conscious and active participation" (Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy [*Sacrosanctum Concilium*], 14).

Keep encouraging your mom to attend weekly Mass in person and encourage her to contact her priest about starting annulment proceedings. If the annulment is granted and her current marriage is convalidated, she'll be able to receive the Eucharist.

Receiving Communion may be the privileged encounter with God, but Mass is primarily for worshiping and giving thanks to God. By returning to Mass with other Catholics now and eventually taking Communion, your mom's faith life clearly will be enriched.

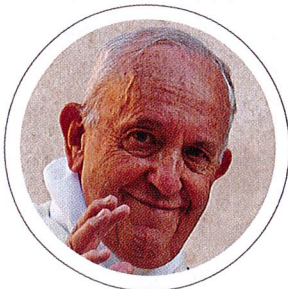
Fr. Bob Lindsey, CSSR / Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org

Do you have a question for the Padre?

Go to DearPadre.org to send your question and to learn more about Dear Padre.



JOEAHEAD / SHUTTERSTOCK



A WORD FROM *Pope Francis*

Familiarity with the Lord, of Christians, is always in community. Yes, it is intimate, it is personal, but within the community. A familiarity without community, a familiarity without bread, a familiarity without the Church, without the people, without the sacraments, is dangerous.

HOMILY, APRIL 17, 2020

Calendar

Monday

NOVEMBER 8

Weekday

Wis 1:1-7

Lk 17:1-6

Tuesday

NOVEMBER 9

*Dedication of the
Lateran Basilica*

Ez 47:1-2, 8-9, 12

1 Cor 3:9c-11, 16-17

Jn 2:13-22

Wednesday

NOVEMBER 10

*St. Leo the Great, Pope
and Doctor of the
Church*

Wis 6:1-11

Lk 17:11-19

Thursday

NOVEMBER 11

*St. Martin of Tours,
Bishop*

Wis 7:22b-8:1

Lk 17:20-25

Friday

NOVEMBER 12

*St. Josaphat,
Bishop and Martyr*

Wis 13:1-9

Lk 17:26-37

Saturday

NOVEMBER 13

*St. Frances Xavier
Cabrini, Virgin*

Wis 18:14-16; 19:6-9

Lk 18:1-8

Sunday

NOVEMBER 14

*Thirty-third Sunday in
Ordinary Time*

Dn 12:1-3

Heb 10:11-14, 18

Mk 13:24-32