

18th SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME, YEAR C

8/3/2025

Dear Beloved Parishioners,

“Take care to guard against all greed, for though one may be rich, one’s life does not consist of possessions.

Jesus, in Luke 12:15

Greed descends from our native self-centeredness. The temptation to greed comes naturally to us.

Greed may show itself in a few different ways:

- The drive to keep amassing wealth for the sake of *having* it.
- Hoarding unneeded wealth at the expense of the needs of others.
- The insatiable desire to have things or a thing.

Example: I have an “iPhone 12 mini”—a great little phone that fits in my shirt pocket, takes phone calls and messages, provides all the word games I can stand, and is just full of information (try Googling “greed is . . .” or even “Thomas Aquinas on greed ...”). And, although my iPhone baffles me some- times, mostly it’s a faithful servant.

Well, my brother-in-law has given me a subscription to the New York *Times* which carries our favorite word game, *Wordle*. One day, as I was scrolling through the paper, I saw what seemed like an ad for a new iPhone that’s not too big, delivers the highest- quality pictures and videos, and is full of information. And it was available at a low price.* *I wanted that phone!*

I began thinking about this thing: *How old is the old phone? Shouldn’t I be getting a new one sometime anyway? Where can I get the money from?*

But then: Jesus: “Avoid greed in all its forms.” Do you really have to have a new phone? What about the starving children of the world? Of your world? Think of Family X, or Family Y. Think of Catholic Relief Services. Of the St. Vincent DePaul Society.

Actually, I’m surviving pretty well without the oh-so-tempting phone. I have Jesus to thank for it. And so do families X and Y.

Think: How does the desire to have more unnecessary things and money affect you? How could you make a difference for good in the lives of the needy by listening to the word of Jesus in today’s Gospel and acting on it?

God bless us all with faith and wisdom. And peace.

Msgr. Mike with Fr. Albert

*2 good 2 B true. It must have been April Fool’s Day! I never saw the ad again.

