

THIRTY - SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME NOV. 7, 021.

There is a story about the little boy who went off to church with his dad one Sunday morning with two quarters in his hand. His dad instructed him that one quarter was for God and the other for himself for a treat after Mass. As he crossed the street he stumbled and the two quarters went flying. The boy retrieved one but the other quarter went down a storm drain. As the father approached the boy, he saw him looking down the storm drain saying, "Poor God. There goes your quarter!"

*I tell that story for one reason. First God does not need our money. It is already his. We are simply stewards of it. The main lesson of today's scriptures is that what God wants is our hearts. What God wants is you and me - **totally!***

*The scriptures today give us the example of three persons who give their all - who are **extravagant** in their **generosity**.*

***We just heard proclaimed** the story of a widow in the days of the prophet, Elijah. She gave her **all** to the Holy man of God. Because of her **extravagant generosity** she and her son were blessed with new life.*

*The second example is the Gospel story of another widow who likewise gives her **all**. She is generous to the point of being foolish. We are not called to make ourselves destitute. That would be wrong for most of us not living in a Religious Community. What Jesus is calling our attention to is a **heart** that is more interested in giving than in **getting**. Jesus compares her sacrifice, which is **total**, to that of the wealthy whose gifts were not really much of a sacrifice. In contrast to the generosity of the widow, Jesus condemns the stinginess of the scribes who commit injustices against the poor, especially defenseless widows.*

*The third example of giving one's all is from the second reading today, which speaks of Jesus himself giving his very life on the cross for our Salvation. That is the ultimate sacrifice - the greatest generosity of all. Even more marvelous is His **love** that continues to give of his All to you and me in his presence in the Bread of life. His extravagant generosity comes to you and me every time we receive Him in Holy Communion.*

***In response to such undeserved generosity, goodness, and love** He longs for our hearts. He longs for self - giving **hearts** that are willing to give their **all** out of love for God and one another.*

*Giving our all - in response to God's unconditional love of us is very much like marriage. It is because of love for one another that spouses give to each other not just all their possessions, but rather their **hearts**, their very **lives**.*