

***“Everything the true Christian has is to be regarded as a good possessed in common with everyone else. All Christians should be ready and eager to come to the help of the needy.... A Christian is a steward of the Lord’s goods” (Catechism of Catholic Church, no. 952).***

### **Giving as an Act of Faith**

The celebrations of the Feast of All the Saints and All the Faithful Departed (All Souls) on 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> November respectively are very significant as we come toward the end of the Liturgical Year. These celebrations remind us of the transient nature of our earthly life, and invite us to seize the opportunity we have to work toward embracing the gratuitous gift of salvation which God has given us in Christ (Revelation 7: 10). The Eucharist we celebrate continues to prepare us to gain this salvation which Christ will give to “those who eagerly await him” as the second reading today states clearly.

The first reading and the Gospel today present to us two widows who expressed their faith in God through their acts of giving at different times and situations. In both cases the widows gave in the face of scarcity. One has to ask: What propelled these widows to give in spite of their hopeless and helpless situations? Our readings present two striking answers to this question. First, in order for us to share our gifts with others we must have faith and trust in God whose gifts to us are infinite. It was a disposition like this that motivated the widow in the first reading to accept and act on the words of the prophet Elijah. Second, God blesses each and every one of us with gifts. These gifts are given us so that we become gifts to others. The poor widow in the gospel acknowledged and acted on this. Thus, she won the praise and admiration of Christ for her total self-giving.

God calls us in different ways to share the gifts (time, talent, and treasure) he has given us with others. We ask ourselves: Do we accept or deny these gifts? Do we find always a way to excuse ourselves from sharing these gifts? What happens when people do not acknowledge the gifts we share with them? Do we get so much discouraged and forget the source of our gifts? Do we still give for the sake of God who gives us in spite of ourselves? Do we know that our faith shows itself truly on the way we respond and use the gifts God has given us? (James 2:17). Do we know that these gifts are given for us to use them win God’s gift of salvation? Let us ask the good Lord to help us to accept the gifts he has given us and become true gifts to others for his greater glory. Amen.

***“Give, and there will be gifts for you, a full measure, pressed down, shaken together, and overflowing, will be poured into your lap, because the standard you use will be the standard used for you” (Luke 6: 38).***