

# Read

1 Kings 17:10-16

Psalm 146:7, 8-9, 9-10

Hebrews 9:24-28

Mark 12:38-44 12:41-44

## LIVING THE WORD

### Thirty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

November 11, 2018



#### REFLECTION

Today's readings are about trust. The poor widow gives two small coins—her whole livelihood!—while her rich neighbors only give of their excess wealth. The poor widow responds willingly and completely to Jesus' request that believers leave everything behind to follow him. Similarly, Elijah shares a story where he asks a woman to make him a little cake out of what ingredients she has left, even though she has a son to worry about. However, her faith is complete and total. She believes Elijah's prophesy that the Lord will provide. And provide he did! Our busy lives are filled with reasons to avoid sacrificing what we have for others. We feel good donating canned food that has been in our cupboard for months or clothing that is stained gets packed up for a charity. Giving our best items from our cupboards and closets challenges us to trust with our whole hearts and minds.



#### ACTION

Go through your bedroom closet and look for good, quality clothing to donate to your local shelter or refugee center (be sure to ask your parents' permission and explain to them why donating your clothing is important). You probably have more sweatshirts or pants than you can wear in a week. Part with some of the best and see how that feels. In this way, you will be trusting that the Lord will provide.

Learn about Catholic Charities and find out ways you and your friends can help the poor.



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#### QUESTIONS

- ❖ What do today's readings teach you about the Christian life?
- ❖ Why is it hard to give all that you have in order to follow your faith?
- ❖ How can you free your heart to trust in God more?



November 11, 2018

## THIRTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

### LECTIONARY #155B

1 Kings 17:10-16

Psalm 146:7, 8-9, 9-10

Hebrews 9:24-28

Mark 12:38-44 or Mark 12:41-44

### Prepare for the Word

*The following elements may be used by the catechist, teacher, or youth minister to prepare to facilitate today's session with teens. You may integrate this information into the reflection and discussion on today's readings.*

#### Leader's Context

We all look for a good example we can follow. Today's Gospel gives us one of the best. We need not be rich nor great to be a true follower. Like the poor widow, we show our love for God best when we open our hearts and give of our very selves. Even Jesus pointed to her as a good role model. As we near Thanksgiving, it is appropriate to talk about what blessings we have in our lives and how we should give thanks. Connect that with the Gospel story of the widow who gives all that she has.

**Q FOCUS:** *To give selflessly out of love for Christ.*

#### Liturgical Calendar Connection

On November 13, the Church honors St. Frances Xavier Cabrini. She was born in Italy in 1850. Thirty years later, she founded her own religious order: the Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart. Mother Cabrini wanted to go to China, but honored the pope's request to come to America. She and her sisters began by helping the Italian immigrants in New York City. She travelled extensively and started over sixty institutions for the poor, including schools, hospitals, and orphanages. She became a naturalized citizen in 1909 and died in 1917. In 1946 she was the first citizen of the United States to be canonized.

#### Church Teaching Connection

"Love for others, and in the first place love for the poor, in whom the Church sees Christ himself, is made concrete in the *promotion of justice*. Justice will never be fully attained unless people see in the poor person, who is asking for help in order to survive, not an annoyance or a burden, but an opportunity for showing kindness and a chance for greater enrichment" (*Centesimus annus*, 58).

## Hear the Word

Use this resource, a Lectionary, or a Bible to proclaim the reading. The book should be held reverently or placed on a lectern. If possible, light a candle that is placed near where the Gospel will be proclaimed. Gesture for teens to stand.

### Gospel Acclamation

Use the same musical setting that is used in your parish or at school Masses. Teens may help with music and proclaim the Gospel.

Alleluia, alleluia.

### Gospel

Mark 12:41-44

**Reader:** A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark.

**All:** Glory to you, O Lord.

*All make the Sign of the Cross on their forehead, lips, and heart.*

Jesus sat down opposite the treasury and observed how the crowd put money into the treasury. Many rich people put in large sums. A poor widow also came and put in two small coins worth a few cents. Calling his disciples to himself, he said to them, "Amen, I say to you, this poor widow put in more than all the other contributors to the treasury. For they have all contributed from their surplus wealth, but she, from her poverty, has contributed all she had, her whole livelihood."

**Reader:** The Gospel of the Lord.

**All:** Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

*Everyone may be seated.*

## Reflect on the Word

When beginning the reflection and discussion about today's readings, first refer to the handout for today. Ask teens what they learned about themselves and about Christian discipleship from performing the action for the week and journaling. Ask teens about the readings of the day: What struck them? What do they think the readings mean? How do the readings affect their own lives? Then begin the following reflection:

Thanksgiving is a few weeks away. We give thanks during this season for all the blessings we have. Name some of the blessings you are thankful for.

► Have you ever had a time when you didn't feel as if you had much to be thankful for? What circumstances led you to feel that way?

► If people had celebrated Thanksgiving in Jesus' time, what do you think the widow in today's Gospel would have said she was thankful for?

In today's Gospel we hear of a woman who puts two small coins into the collection box, after several people have already come and put in large amounts of money. Even though she has put in less than everyone else, Jesus says that she has given more because she has given everything that she had.

► If you came home from school and found out that your parents had given everything that your family had to your church, what would you say?

► Think about your giving habits. When it is time to give to the food pantry, do you take food that you would like to have for yourself or cans from the pantry that have been sitting around because no one wants them?

This Sunday's Gospel can be hard for people to handle. We know that everything that we are comes from God and that we are called to give everything to him, but we also know that we need money to survive. God doesn't want us to suffer; he just wants us to stop trying to control everything on our own and give everything over to him, trusting that he will give us what we need.

► Have any of you ever received help from someone that went way beyond what you had expected? What happened?

► Does God give you help that goes beyond what you expect?

## Wrapping It Up

Consider these points to conclude the discussion and reflection. Integrate the thoughts and ideas that surfaced during the discussion as well as the “Church Teaching Connection” on page 66.

The word *Eucharist* means “thanksgiving.” When you attend Mass, how do you give thanks to God?

What is the connection between giving thanks to God at Mass and living as his disciples?

How do you give God your all at Mass and in the world?

## Act on the Word

### Giving All

You will need journals or paper and writing materials to lead this activity.

Distribute journals or paper and writing materials. Talk to the teens about what it meant for the widow to give her last two coins to the collection box. It meant real hardship for her. It would probably be easy for her to think, “Other people have much more money than I do, so it’s okay if I don’t give.” But instead, she gave everything. Challenge the

teens to rewrite this parable using familiar types of people and settings. For example, they could write about a girl who gives her dress to a friend the night before the prom, or an unpopular student who stands up for an even less popular student at personal expense. Encourage them to be creative. Invite those who are willing to share what they wrote. Talk about how giving all that we have isn’t just about money. It’s about recognizing the need of others and being open to giving everything to fix it.

## Closing Prayer

Lord God,  
you ask us to come to you empty-handed,  
discovering in your infinite mercy  
and your unending compassion  
all that we need.  
Help us to be like the widow,  
who out of trusting dependence upon you,  
gave not from her wealth but from her poverty.  
Through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

## For Next Sunday

To help teens prepare for next Sunday’s Mass, print, email, or share on a blog or social media the handout found on the next page. The JPG and PDF files are available at [www.ltp.org/lwgr](http://www.ltp.org/lwgr). Encourage teens to attend Mass with family or friends.