

32nd Week of Ordinary Time - B

There was a juggler in the marketplace – Monks came walking thru and he stopped them.
He wanted to become a monk too – eventually he did – Bro. Lawrence
In the monastery every monk has a job, and they take pride in how good they do it.
One Christmas the monks decided each would give their masterpiece to the infant Jesus
One painted an icon One made a beautiful chalice
Another baked a magnificent Christmas cake
One day before Christmas Lawrence locked himself in the church.
The other monks tried to get in but couldn't – they thought he'd gone mad.
Eventually one climbed a rope to the choir loft and when he looked down he saw Lawrence juggling before
the crèche – and when he was done the statue of infant Jesus reached his hand toward Lawrence, & smiled

Brother Lawrence did something little – but it was his best.

Today we hear about 2 widows – both poor, both little – but both have faith and give best
1st WIDOW meets Elijah – “Bring me a cup of water – Oh, and make me a cake”
Widow “I only have a handful of flour – I bake – We eat – then die”
Elijah “Do as you say BUT first make ME a cake, then prepare for yourself”
FOR THE LORD GOD SAYS –

What would you do?
Elijah has a lot of crust, don't you think?
BUT it's the LORD GOD SAYS part that the woman trusts,
Her faith in the prophecy saves her life

2nd WIDOW is seen by Jesus in the temple
Scribes with long robes – places of honor – Donate with pomp & ceremony
(it's in the papers – Bank of American donates soccer field)
Unlike scribes the Widow quietly donates 2 small coins – no fanfare here.
Gives of herself (as little as it was)
Scribes gave from their plenty – she from her poverty
As a %, she gave much more – trusting in God rather than \$

When you think of giving as a % it brings to mind tithing
 We think of tithing as giving 10% of what you earn to the church
 There are 3 ways to tithe TIME TALENT TREASURE
 TIME – service to church
 TALENT – using your talents to serve the church (carpenter, plumber)
 TREASURE – your \$

What the Widows teach us is GIVING OF YOURSELF is what's important
Tithing is part of our worship (Offertory is part of liturgy for a reason)
Tithing benefits YOU more than it benefits Church
Not because of the \$ - but because of the Obedience

Bro. Lawrence lived his faith and gave his best by juggling
Widows lived her faith and gave her best by her 2 small coins
What is our best – are we titthing?