

26th Sunday Ordinary Time - Year C

- Have you ever wished you could trade places with someone
 - If you could trade places – who would you choose?
 - A movie star
 - A famous athlete
 - Someone with lots of money
 - How about a homeless person that has to beg for food?
 - WHO WOULD DO THAT
 - It might not be what you'd wish for –
 - **but that's what happens in today's Gospel**
- JC tells a parable of a Rich man who had poor man Lazarus begging on his steps
 - At the end of the story it's the rich man, begging Lazarus for water
 - In afterlife - The rich man wants to trade places with the poor man!
- What's also clear in today's readings is GOD IS ON THE SIDE OF THE LITTLE GUY
 - THE POOR, THE WIDOW, THE ORPHAN, THE LOST.
 - God Cares for the little guy – He wants healing, restoration, and justice
 - And to the rich that do not help the poor man – Woe is you!
 - Not because they're rich
 - **But because they need conversion**
- **The question today is NOT are you rich, or poor – its NOT how much do you have?**
 - **Rather – How much do you care? How rich or poor is your heart?**
 - Mo. Theresa:
 - *"The biggest disease in the world today is the feeling of being unwanted.*
 - *And the greatest evil in the world today is the lack of love – the terrible indifference towards one's neighbor."*
 - The rich man knew the bible, he had heard what it had to say, but its message hadn't penetrated beyond his ears. It hadn't converted his heart.
- Today we are at THIS banquet table, as guests of Jesus
 - Jesus is our host
 - All throughout the world, Catholics come to this banquet table
 - Calcutta Lima
 - Siberia Tanzania **We poor sinners**
 - Japan Norwood **share the banquet**
 - Walpole Westwood
 - THIS is the banquet shared with lepers of Calcutta
 - A banquet shared with a bag lady in Chicago
 - A banquet shared with AIDS victim in Africa
 - A banquet shared with the geek at your school nobody likes
 - A banquet shared with the bully at school
 - JESUS CALLS THEM ALL

It is not about whether or not God is on our side.

It is about whether we are on God's side.

What we need to hear today is that true wealth is not in what we have
True wealth is in what we give away.