

‘LEARNING FROM THE POOR WIDOW THIS REMEMBRANCE DAY’

11 November 2018 – 32ND Sunday Ordinary Time

REMEMBRANCE DAY 2018

On this centenary of the Armistice to end the First World War,
we remember the tragedy of the First World War.
And we remember the tragedies of war ever since.

*We remember and pray to You, O God
for family members and friends
and community members who died in war,
and those survivors who still suffer the effects of war.
We remember and pray for those who have suffered in any way because of war.*

*We pray to You, O God for peace in our world.
We pray for peace makers and peace keepers.
We pray for those who genuinely act for peace in our world.
We remember, and we pray for peace.*

The Minute’s Silence will be at its traditional time of 11am.
Let us pause now in our worship and remember and pray silently. **[Pause in silence]**

This month of remembering – this month of November,
began with *All Saints Day* and *All Souls Day*.
The *Book of Remembrance* is placed on the altar for every Mass.

We remember our call from the Gospel to love and to be peace-makers.

Pope Francis has a Message for all of us this month.
Let us read his words.

"In the Service of Peace
*We all want peace.
It is desired above all by those who suffer its absence.
We can speak with splendid words,
but if there is no peace in our heart,
there will be no peace in the world.
With zero violence and 100 percent tenderness,
let us build the evangelical peace that excludes no one.
Let us pray together that the language of love and dialogue
may always prevail over the language of conflict."*

From last Sunday we remember the discussion
between Jesus and a particular unnamed scribe.
Jesus complimented him with the words:

‘You are not far from the kingdom of God.’

In such a defining moment we are told:

'After that no one dared to ask him any question.'

There is respect between the scribe and Jesus.
However, the general attitude of scribes
was not always one in the service of peace.
Jesus continues to examine
some of the attitudes of the scribes in general.
He challenges the argument of the scribes
about the messiah and son of David in verses 35-37.
How do the crowd respond to Jesus and his teaching?
In verse 37 we hear

'And the large crowd was listening to him with delight'.

DO WE LISTEN TO JESUS WITH DELIGHT?

TODAY'S GOSPEL OF MARK 12:38-44

Jesus calls us to be guided by the love of God,
and not to be guided by self-importance and power and prestige.
The first part of today's Gospel points out the weakness of scribes

"As he taught, he said,

***'Beware of the scribes, who like to walk around in long robes,
and to be greeted with respect in the market-places,
and to have the best seats in the synagogues and places of honour at
banquets!***

***They devour widows' houses and for the sake of appearance say long
prayers. They will receive the greater condemnation.'*** "

Not only do they seek out places of honour,
but they also **'devour widow's houses'**.

Jesus contrasts these attitudes with a widow who appears in front of them.

*"He sat down opposite the treasury,
and watched the crowd putting money into the treasury.
Many rich people put in large sums.
A poor widow came and put in two small copper coins,
which are worth a penny.*

Then he called his disciples and said to them,

***'Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put in more
than all those who are contributing to the treasury.
For all of them have contributed out of their abundance;
but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had,
all she had to live on.'*** "

The humility and generosity of the widow stand out.
She makes no speech and does not draw people's attention to herself.
What she does is between herself and God.

She gives more than most.

HOW DOES THE WIDOW OF TODAY'S GOSPEL SPEAK TO US?

Let us pause and ask ourselves before God. [Pause]

Giving of our money and our possessions are only a part of the question.

HOW DO WE GIVE TO GOD OF OUR TIME?

HOW DO WE GIVE TO GOD OF OUR ENTHUSIASM?

HOW DO WE GIVE TO GOD OF OUR LOVE?

HOW DO WE GIVE TO GOD OF OUR PASSION?

HOW DO WE GIVE TO GOD IN SERVICE OF PEACE?

HOW DO WE GIVE TO GOD BY REMEMBERING THE SACRIFICES OTHERS HAVE MADE FOR US?

HOW DO WE GIVE TO GOD BY THE LANGUAGE OF LOVE WE SAY AND LIVE?

HOW DO WE GIVE TO GOD, NOT ONLY FROM OUR SURPLUS, BUT FROM OUR VERY SELVES?

And none of these gifts to God are meant to be seeking praise of ourselves, as there is another question to ask behind the questions above.

HOW DO WE GIVE TO GOD HUMBLY?

Let us humbly remember today.

Let us humbly love God who gifts us with life and love.

Let us pray.

Fr. Gerry

[Readings: <http://www.usccb.org/bible/readings/111118.cfm>]

[Parish Facebook: <http://bit.ly/parishFacebook11112018>]

[Remembrance Day Prayer](#)



Image of coins: Bronze leptons of Pontius Pilate, prefect (governor) of Judaea from 26 to 36 AD