

26th Sunday of Ordinary Time

Amos 6:1a, 4-7
Ps 146:(1b) 7-10
1 Timothy 6:11-16
Luke 16:19-31

Monday September 26

Job 1:6-22
Ps 17:1b-3,6-7
Luke 9:46-50

Tuesday September 27 St. Vincent de Paul

Job 3:1-3,11-17,20-23
Ps 88:2-8
Luke 9:51-56

Wednesday September 28

Job 9:1-12,14-16
Ps 88:10b-15
Luke 9:57-62

Thursday September 29

**Archangels Michael,
Gabriel & Raphael**
Daniel 7:9-10,13-14
or Revelation 12:7-12a
Ps 138:1-5
John 1:47-51

Friday September 30 St. Jerome

Job 38:1,12-21; 40:3-5
Ps 139:1-3,7-10,13-14b
Luke 10:13-16

Saturday October 1 St. Therese of Lisieux

Job 42:1-3,5-6,12-17
Ps 119:66,71,75,91,125,130
Luke 10:17-24

What was the rich man's sin in this Sunday's Gospel story? What tormented him after he died? Being wealthy is not sinful; what tortured his soul was his decision to not share his wealth with Lazarus while he had the opportunity.



Death is not a closing of life; it's the opening up of our souls so we become fully alive in God's love. Death awakens us to the full reality of who God is and all the gifts he has given us and how well – or how poorly – we've invested those gifts. Whenever we share the gifts that we've received, we're investing in God's kingdom. In God's economy, our investments always pay off very well. We receive more than we give away so that we can share even more!

In contrast, when we protect and keep something for ourselves, we lose it like a flower that's "protected" in a dark box. The flower wilts. It cannot

grow. Everything we try to protect ends up useless or even poisonous: We stagnate spiritually as well as emotionally. The gift rots. Our selfishness destroys our union with God who is the Master of Generosity.

Every day, we're given opportunities to share something – some blessing from God – with others. Perhaps

the rich man in the parable turned away from Lazarus because of the poor man's disease. He was probably a leper and highly contagious.

Do we share less because we feel disgust toward those who need what we have? Or maybe fear holds us back. Or resentment. To be united to God and experience everlasting joy, we cannot live in this state. We have to let love motivate us. Love has no limits; it's always generous.

In the second reading, we hear: "Compete well for the faith." Against whom do we compete? Ourselves! Are you holier today? Are you spiritually stronger because you've worked hard at becoming more loving and generous?

Reflect & Discuss:

1. Bring to mind someone you find disgusting. How generous are you toward him or her? If you've missed an opportunity to share a blessing with this person, the Sacrament of Reconciliation will give you strength, through special grace, to overcome this sin.
2. Give examples of times when people turn away from opportunities to be generous. Explain reasons why this happens.
3. How have you personally been a Lazarus who was denied what you needed because of prejudice? What did you learn from that which changed your own attitudes about generosity?