

18th Sunday of Ordinary Time

Ecclesiastes 1:2; 2:21-23
 Ps 90:(1)3-6,12-14,17
 Colossians 3:1-5, 9-11
 Luke 12:13-21

Monday August 1
St. Alphonsus Liguori

Jeremiah 28:1-17
 Ps 119:29,43,79,80,95,102
 Matthew 14:13-21

Tuesday August 2

Jer 30:1-2,12-15,18-22
 Ps 102:16-21,29,22-23
 Matthew 14:22-36

Wednesday August 3

Jeremiah 31:1-7
 Jer 31:10-13
 Matthew 15:21-28

Thursday August 4
St. John Mary Vianney

Jeremiah 31:31-34
 Ps 51:12-15,18-19
 Matthew 16:13-23

Friday August 5

Nahum 2:1,3; 3:1-3,6-7
 Deut 32:35c-36b,39,41
 Matthew 16:24-28

Saturday August 6
Transfiguration

Daniel 7:9-10,13-14
 Ps 97:1-2,5-6,9
 2 Peter 1:16-19
 Luke 9:28b-36

When we understand God's generosity, we realize how wealthy we truly are. Even if we have little money in the bank, our lives are rich in God -



- feeling protected and cared for by God, giving us an abundance of peace that gets us through trials and battles with wisdom and endurance.

God's generosity also leads to material goods. Every material blessing we have comes from God. He delivers it to us through the talents and skills he has given to us. Whatever we earn through our own efforts comes originally from God's efforts. God is the source of everything that's good in our lives.

However, there's more! Everything from God is meant to bless others, too. We are conduits of God's generosity.

Whatever we have that we refuse to share becomes the cause of sin. We succumb to

selfishness, which is akin to greed. The problem with greed is that it hurts others by denying them what God wants to share with them.

What makes us vulnerable to this sin? Self-reliance. It comes from thinking that we can rely solely on ourselves and on our own resources instead of partnering with God in generosity. Even when we recognize that God has been generous with us, self-reliance says that

we are responsible for preventing the poverty of giving it away to others.

When we protect our lives by storing up our goods, others suffer. In the Gospel reading this Sunday, Jesus addresses both greed and self-reliance, because they are completely

contrary to the personality of God.

Generosity grows when we understand that God is the provider of everything good and that he will continue to provide for us even when we give away what he gives to us – *especially* when we give away what he gives to us. Think about what you have in abundance (be it money, or joy, or wisdom, or lessons learned from experience, or ____). Now look around. How might you be the answer to someone else's' prayers?

Whatever we hope to have already belongs to God and is meant to be shared with others. This is the primary economic principle of the kingdom of God. The Body of Christ thrives only when there's a continual exchange of goods. We call this the communion of saints.

Reflect & Discuss:

1. What is most difficult for you to share or give away?
2. Why do you cling to it? What are you afraid will happen if you let go of it?
3. Why do we feel safer relying on ourselves than on God?