

26th Sunday In Ordinary Time Of The Year

(Amos 6.1,4-7, 1 Timothy 6.11-16, Luke 16.19-31)

Theme: God Has Blessed Us To Share With The Poor and Needy.

Beloved in Christ Jesus: The readings of today are telling us to remember the poor and the needy in our riches. Worldly wealth and riches are blessings unto us as long as we share with the poor and the needy. These worldly riches and wealth becomes a curse unto us, when we only think of ourselves and families. One of the reasons God has blessed us with these worldly wealth and riches is for us to share with those in need.

In the first reading today, the prophet of God, Amos, says, "Thus says the Lord, the God of hosts, Alas for those who lie on beds of ivory, and lounge on their couches; who drink wine from bowls, and anoint themselves with the finest oils, but are not grieved over the ruin of Joseph." "Therefore they shall now be the first to go into exile..." (Amos 6.1,4-7)

Here the prophet of God is reminding us that, as we eat three times a day or more than that, let us remember those who have nothing to eat. As we sleep in our well heated houses, let us remember those, who sleep on the streets or those who have no where to sleep. As we change our jackets to different colours, may we always bear in mind there are those who are dying of cold out there.

The gospel acclamation of today says, "Though Jesus Christ was rich, yet he became poor, so that by his poverty you might become rich." (2Cor.8.9)

One of the aims of the Annual Diocesan Appeal is that, through the abundance of the rich parishes and generous donations of families, the remote and poor areas of our diocese will continue to receive the Word of God.

The various contributions we make through justice and peace, is to help many people in different parts of the world who are suffering in one way or the other.

In the gospel of today, Jesus told the story of the rich man and the poor man Lazarus. At the end of the lives the rich man was found suffering in hell, while poor Lazarus is now happy and rejoicing in heaven with the saints of God. The rich man's sin that led him to hell was that during his lifetime, with his wealth and riches, he was only thinking of himself and his family and forgot to remember the poor.

So dear friends in Christ, in our riches may we always remember to the poor and the needy.