Homily – November 15, 2020

Some of you don't have much money. You know what it is like to struggle. We here at Our Lady of the Americas are struggling to stay alive. We have not been able to pay all our bills.

There is no one else to help us. The diocese has made it clear that they are unable to help and Blessed Sacrament has many, many expenses including the support of their school. Nonetheless I feel confident that with the help of God and your generosity we can continue our ministry here at Our Lady of the Americas. You have been very generous and I know you generosity will continue. We have the resources. We can do it with your help.

Today's Gospel makes it clear that we are called by God to use our gifts, to share our time, our talent and our treasure. These gifts are not just for ourselves. They are meant to be shared.

There is another parable in St. Luke's Gospel which helps us to understand today's Gospel more clearly. It's about the widow living in poverty who put 2 small coins into the Temple treasury. Jesus declared to His Apostles that she gave more than the wealthy people because she gave from her poverty, she offered her whole livelihood, all that she had while the rich were giving from their surplus.

I must tell you I love being in a parish that is poor. I'm grateful for the struggle. I'm grateful that we absolutely must trust in God. I know we will make it because I trust in you. Through our trusting in God we are already rich.

And as Columbo always said "One more thing", Pope Francis has declared the 33rd Sunday in Ordinary time the "Fourth World Day of the Poor". You can read his address on your computer or telephone. The theme of his address is "stretch forth your hand to the poor" (Sirach 7:32)

In the final paragraph of this short message Pope Francis tells us; "In this journey of daily encounter with the poor, the Mother of God is ever at our side. More than any other, she is the Mother of the Poor…. She herself gave birth to the Son of God in a stable….."