

Homily — 32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time, B 2018
By Rev. Bob Schramm, OSFS

Today's second reading reminded us that Christ, our high priest, offered HIMSELF to take away the sins of many.

In an ancient Christian hymn found in St. Paul's letter to the Philippians, we find these magnificent words:

“Though he was in the form of God,
he did not consider equality with God something to cling to.
Rather he emptied himself and took the form of a slave,
being born in human likeness.
And being human, he humbled himself
accepting death, even death on a cross.”

Just before he paints that unimaginable image of a Christ who is emptied and humbled, St. Paul says:
"Your attitude must be that of Christ."

In today's Gospel, Jesus sees in this poor widow a kindred spirit, one who gives all she had, just as he would give all on the cross.

The Gospel says, “And he called his disciples.”
He just did that — you know — he just called us.
He says,
“You see that poor widow. Live like that . . . as I do”

What must have motivated her to do that
— to give it ALL?

Why do you think she did that?
I have a suggestion. See how this fits.

I suggest that the temple stirred that widow's imagination.
For this poor widow, the temple represented
her participation in something much bigger than herself.
She contributed all she had
because she wanted to participate in the work of God.

She threw herself into that giving totally.
The others held back.
They were still focused on themselves, their own needs, wants, desires,
so they could only give from their surplus.

Life only really gets fulfilling, rich, truly rewarding
when you can be free enough
to jump into participating in something much bigger than yourself.

Story of a shooting Wednesday night in Ventura County, Calif.;
11 killed, including a police officer, Ron Helus,

**Helus was first on the scene, went in to try to stop the slaughter.
"Your attitude must be that of Christ."**

**We are immersed in a national culture that is radically individualistic.
Taking care of yourself before all else, is deeply imbedded in all of us.
We are all, in many ways, trapped in this national culture.
We tend to focus much more on what is best for each individual
than on what is best for all of us,
on what the Church calls "the common good."**

**Today's readings, I suggest, are an attempt by God
to cajole, allure, entice, prod and perhaps even badger us
to embrace a new imagination, a larger vision.**

**God is attempting to draw us into a new willingness
to take on the attitude
of the Christ who emptied and humbled himself
for the greater good he called the Kingdom of God.**

**This is Veteran's day.
If you're a veteran, please raise your hand.
I think in many ways, veterans exemplify the best of our country
and something of what St. Paul calls us ALL to; put on Christ**

One final example:

St. Edith (Livonia) Quote:

**ALL ARE WELCOME AT ST. EDITH PARISH
We will welcome you regardless of your present status in the Catholic Church.
We will welcome you regardless of your current family situation or marital status.
We will welcome you if you are a staunch Catholic
or do not like organized religion.
We will not judge you based upon your personal history, age, race,
ethnic background, appearance, sexual orientation or gender identity.
We welcome children, even when they act like children.
If there is no crying, our Parish is dying!
We are all on a spiritual journey, trying to find our way.
All are welcome to join us on our spiritual journey at St. Edith.**

**That's a pretty big vision St. Paul and Jesus invite us all to participate in today.
"Your attitude must be that of Christ."**