

**“For it is in giving that we receive.”**

Giving is one of the most amazing acts we can do. Why? Because, there is nothing under heaven and on earth we are not given. Everything is a gratuitous gift from God, starting from our very life. It's true, living is giving. God gave us the best; He gave us His only Son Jesus who even gave us His Mother and kept nothing for Himself.

Recently, we have celebrated the 7<sup>th</sup> World Day of the Poor and approaching the season of Advent and Christmas, we may have already planned for Christmas decoration, gifts and dinner, etc. Be mindful of the people in need of support and assistance to make their life a little more livable than what they go through. Our generosity in concrete action will bring hope and happiness to the season of Love. Through our generosity we can make a difference in their lives.

We are very familiar with the story of the Good Samaritan (Lk 10:25-37), who gave his time, talent and treasure to a wounded stranger. Did he know the man? No, but what made him do that. It's just being a human to another human. He did not leave him to suffer and die by the road. Whereas the Levite and the priest left him by the road to die. Jesus tells us, *Go and do likewise*. Be a Good Samaritan to a stranger, to a person in need, and do whatever it takes to make the life of the other better.

The two copper coins were the ultimate generosity of the Poor Widow (Lk 21:1-4). She gave not from her abundance but from her poverty, the only resource she had for survival. She willingly offered everything she owned for the greater need. She knew very well that unless she emptied herself of what she was holding on to, she could not receive what God had to offer in abundance.

Putting the words of Jesus into practice; *Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me* (Mt 25:40), Mother Teresa said, “At the end of life, we will not be judged by how many diplomas we have received, how much money we have made, how many great things we have done. We will be judged by, *I was hungry, and you gave me something to eat, I was naked and you clothed me. I was homeless, and you took me in.* (Mt 25:35)

Truly, it is in giving that we receive and receive in abundance. Think of the last time you gave someone your time, talent or treasure. I am sure it made a big difference in the life of that person. Let us share whatever little we can with the less fortunate ones. God blesses a generous giver!

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