

Homily Summary – 26th Sunday of Ordinary Time – Giving Ourselves Away in Love

Overview This Sunday's readings continue the theme from last week: putting love of God and neighbour above worldly possessions and comfort. Fr. Greg reflected on his experience at the Diocesan Young Adult Jubilee Pilgrimage to Martyrs' Shrine in Midland, where the witness of the Canadian Martyrs—Sts. Jean de Brébeuf, Isaac Jogues, and companions—beautifully illustrated true, self-giving love. The Gospel challenges us through the parable of the rich man and Lazarus (Luke 16:19–31): to see the suffering around us, to love concretely, and to share our “riches”—our time, talent, and treasure—for the sake of others.

Main Points

1. Love of God and Neighbour Over Self

- Like the rich man who ignored Lazarus, we can fall into selfishness when we fail to notice the needs of those around us.
- True discipleship means living for others. The saints and martyrs remind us that holiness flows from self-donating love.
- The Canadian Martyrs gave everything for love of God and neighbour—protecting others, evangelizing with compassion, and offering hope.

2. Self-Giving as the Way to Heaven

- It wasn't the man's wealth that kept him from Heaven, but his lack of compassion.
- God desires that we all be saved, but there's “no room in Heaven” for selfishness. Heaven is full of love and self-gift.
- We are invited to use our blessings—spiritual or material—for the good of others.

3. The Hope and Mercy of God

- Even when we fall into selfishness, God's mercy is greater.
- Through Confession, we can be renewed and return to selfless love.
- As Psalm 136 says, *“His steadfast love endures forever.”*

4. Mary as Our Model of Self-Giving Love

- Mary hurried to help Elizabeth (Luke 1:39–45) and interceded for others at Cana (John 2:1–11).
- She teaches us to be attentive, generous, and ready to serve.

5. Our Mission: To Be Signs of Hope

- Like the martyrs, we are called to be signs of hope in a world that often feels hopeless.
 - We become hope for others when we serve joyfully and love generously.
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Key Scripture Verses

- **Luke 16:19–31** – The rich man and Lazarus: a call to compassion.
 - **Matthew 25:40** – “Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.”
 - **Philippians 2:4–5** – “Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others.”
 - **1 John 3:17–18** – “If anyone has the world's goods and sees a brother in need yet closes his heart, how does God's love abide in him?”
 - **Psalm 136:1** – “Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his steadfast love endures forever.”
 - **Luke 1:39–45** – Mary visits Elizabeth, bringing joy and service.
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Catechism References

- **CCC 1822–1829** – Charity as the highest virtue; love of God and neighbour.
- **CCC 2443–2449** – Love for the poor is part of the Church's mission; caring for those in need.
- **CCC 1033** – Hell is self-exclusion from communion with God, which results from selfish choices.
- **CCC 1397** – The Eucharist commits us to the poor; it calls us to recognize Christ in them.
- **CCC 1846–1848** – God's mercy transforms us and calls us to conversion.

Reflection Questions

1. Do I truly see and respond to the "Lazarus" at my doorstep — those who need my compassion, time, or attention?
2. How am I using my time, talents, and treasure to serve others and glorify God?
3. In what ways can I become a source of *hope* to others in my home, school, or workplace?
4. When was the last time I experienced God's mercy in Confession and let it renew my heart?
5. How can I imitate Mary's attentiveness and readiness to serve in my daily life?

Takeaway: God calls us not to comfort but to *communion* — with Him and with one another. When we open our hearts, see the needs of others, and give of ourselves, we live as true disciples. Then, one day, we will hear the words: "*Well done, good and faithful servant... enter into the joy of your Master.*" (Matthew 25:23)

Rhyme summary: The Martyrs lived with hope and care, their selfless love they chose to share, unlike the rich man who just passed by, blind to Lazarus the poor man's cry. God calls us all to Heaven's door, but selfish hearts must change still more. So daily give, with a love that's true - let Christ's own service shine through you. Our riches - time, our gifts, our treasure - are meant for love, not merely earthly pleasure. In Reconciliation God's mercy flows, and God lifts us up when our weakness shows. Like Mary, quick to serve in need, may we be ready with hearts that heed, until Christ proclaims with joy divine: "Well done, good servant - Heaven is thine."

Reasons to come to Mass each weekend

Exodus 20:8 - "Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy."

Acts 2:42 - "They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers."

Hebrews 10:24-25 - "And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching."

Luke 22:19 - "Then he took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, 'This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.'"

John 6:53-54 - "So Jesus said to them, 'Very truly, I tell you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood have eternal life, and I will raise them up on the last day.'"

Matthew 18:20 - "For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them."

Psalms 122:1 - "I was glad when they said to me, 'Let us go to the house of the Lord!'"

Colossians 3:16 - "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God."

Additional resources to learn more about God and the Catholic faith

- Check out the resource list available on www.frmerkley.com
- Catholic Answers: <https://www.catholic.com/>
- Word on Fire: <https://www.wordonfire.org/>
- Formed: <https://formed.org/>
- The Coming Home Network: <https://chnetwork.org/>
- Catholic Exchange: <https://catholicexchange.com/>
- Dynamic Catholic: <https://dynamiccatholic.com/>
- The Augustine Institute: <https://augustineinstitute.org/>
- Ascension Press: <https://ascensionpress.com/>
- EWTN: <https://www.ewtn.com/>
- The Catholic Company: <https://www.catholiccompany.com/>
- Busted Halo: <https://bustedhalo.com/>
- CatholicCulture.org: <https://www.catholicculture.org/>
- The Thomistic Institute: <https://thomisticinstitute.org/>
- Ignatius Press: <https://www.ignatius.com/>
- Catholic Education Resource Center (CERC): <https://www.catholiceducation.org/>