

November 24, 2025

Daily Reflections



RELIANCE ON GOD

By Sister Jane DeLisle, CSJ

Today's Gospel

When Jesus looked up he saw some wealthy people putting their offerings into the treasury and he noticed a poor widow putting in two small coins. He said, "I tell you truly, this poor widow put in more than all the rest; for those others have all made offerings from their surplus wealth, but she, from her poverty, has offered her whole livelihood."

LUKE 21:1-4

Reflection

The Gospel stories this week lead up to the celebration of Thanksgiving. Today's Gospel about the widow's mite reflects an attitude of deep faith,

generosity, and reliance on God. Here was a woman in need of *receiving* charity, yet she had a heart to give all she had. Even though the amount was negligible—what could a widow’s mite buy?—she gave it in faith that God could use it.

The widow’s faith is also evident in the fact that she gave the *last* of her money. The widow puts in her last coin and reveals her complete reliance on God’s providential care for her.

Her actions cause me to marvel at her trust in God. Her relationship with God, over time, had taught her that God is trustworthy and somehow God would provide. Her life was not about herself and her genuine need. Rather, she understood that life was about a trusting relationship with God to provide not a lot, but enough to satisfy her need. Her witness is a powerful reminder and invitation for me to trust God in everything and to give from the heart, all that I am.

I recall a time in my younger life when I experienced myself fully spent. I was serving God’s people out of my want. I realized that I had to trust God at work in and through me in each encounter from this vulnerable place within me. In hindsight, I learned that God is reliable and that all was gift of God’s great love. All I am and all I have comes from God, and is for God to use through God’s presence, blessings, and gifts in me. I need only to rely on the power of God at work in my weakness and trust that what was given was enough.

I also learned that God was seldom early, but never late in providing all that was needed in the moment.

In October, 14 of us who minister at St. Joseph Center joined many other people at the Cantlay Food Distribution Center, sponsored by Catholic Charities of Orange County. We worked for five hours bagging the food donated by local businesses to ease the plight of many people in the area. That day 943 cars came to receive groceries. We gave all we had: our time, energy, and desire to care for the vulnerable within our community. We worked hard, and left physically exhausted but spiritually renewed. The story of the poor widow, who gave all she had to God, flooded my soul as I worked. The poor and vulnerable are many among us. I sometimes find myself among them. What small difference can I make now?

Healthy spirituality is expressed in works of service that foster right relationship with our dear neighbors.



St. Joseph Center Team Volunteering at Cantlay Food Distribution Center
Photo courtesy of Sisters of St. Joseph of Orange

For Pondering

- What is my experience of the “widow’s mite,” when I have given the last of my strength?
- How is my relationship with God expressed in service to the vulnerable neighbor?
- How do I live with radical trust in God?

For Prayer

*Generous and Loving God,
flood my soul with your consoling presence.
Awaken my heart to the poor and vulnerable*

*in need of my attention and care.
Open my eyes to see how I can make a small difference
in the lives of my dear neighbor.
Encourage me to respond with generosity and humility,
“for there but for the grace of God, go I.”
We are all your loved people; make us One in you.
Amen.*

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