



Week Leading up to 9.29.19: Piety and Mercy on the Poor

***While gathering ask how the challenge from the previous session went.**

Opening Prayer:

Begin with a brief moment of silence shaking off any and all distractions or difficulties of the day and remembering that God is always with us.

Read: Luke 16:19-31

After the Reading Conclude with this prayer:

Heavenly Father, open our eyes and ears to those around us in need. May we see those who are lonely, suffering, and without basic human needs. May we notice those around us who are hurting physically, mentally and spiritually. Please Lord, provide us the courage and guidance to respond to these needs with YOUR Divine words and actions. We ask all this in Christ Jesus' name. Amen.

YouTube Video: Catholic Stories - Alan Graham: The Man Behind Mobile Loaves and Fishes (7.27 min) -

https://youtu.be/X44I_8Kbp9g

Small Group Questions:

- 1) Any general thoughts about Alan's testimony? Was there something that really resonated with you or moved you?
- 2) Do you have a "Houston" in your life? A person who introduces you to real people and real ministry?
- 3) Have you personally had a powerful and positive experience with service to others? Please share.
- 4) Often we think of the inner city and crime ridden streets as locations that real service is needed, but what's right under your nose? Are there people in your own neighborhood, schools, or places of work that may need additional care and support?
- 5) How do you think God might be moving you to have compassion or "suffer with" those in your community?

Session Challenge:

Consider how you might be able to seek out and serve the "Lazarus" in your midst. Make a plan and begin to execute it.

Closing Prayer: Let us end today with a prayer adapted from a prayer of St. Teresa Avila.

Christ has no body but ours; no hands, no feet on earth but ours. Ours are the eyes with which He looks with compassion on this world. Ours are the feet with which He walks to do good. Ours are the hands, with which He blesses all the world. Ours are the hands, ours are the feet, ours are the eyes, we are His body. We prayer, dear Lord, that we are good stewards of the gifts You have given to us and share your love with all those we come in contact with. We ask all this through Jesus' name. Amen.

{Optional additional Readings}

Sunday Reading 1: Am 6:1a,4-7

Sunday Reading 2: 1 Tm 6:11-16