



Year C - 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time: Piety and Mercy on the Poor

***{Start with reviewing the previous Meetings Challenge or discuss prior to sharing this week's challenge.}**

Let's Begin: Think about how the challenge went for the last session. What went well? What was difficult?

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** - <https://bible.usccb.org/> - 9/25/2022, 9/28/2025, 10/1/2028

After the Reading Conclude with this prayer:

Heavenly Father, open our eyes and ears to those around us in need. May we truly see those who are lonely, suffering, and without basic human needs. May we truly 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.

Reflection or Discussion Question:

1. Why do you think that Abraham denies the rich man's request in this reading? {note to leader: does it show the importance of helping the needy while alive? Refer to this article for more insight: <https://cathstan.org/posts/learning-the-lessons-of-lazarus-and-the-rich-man-3>}

YouTube Video: How to Fight Against Homelessness-Alan Graham of Mobile Loaves and Fishes (7.27 min) - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZmIp6pIdmrQ>

Reflection or Discussion Questions:

2. Any general thoughts about Alan's testimony? Was there something that really resonated with you or moved you?
3. Do you have a "Houston" in your life? A person who introduces you to real people and real ministry?
4. Have you personally had a powerful and positive experience with service to others? Please share.
5. Often we think of the inner city and crime ridden streets as locations where 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?
6. How do you think God might be moving you to have compassion or "suffer with" those in your community?

Session Challenge:

- Read #2447 in the Catechism of the Catholic Church and consider how you might be able to seek out and serve the "Lazarus" in your midst. Make a plan and begin to execute it. If you're looking for ideas these are several great organizations that help those in need: St. Vincent de Paul at [OLS](#) or [St. Fabain](#), [Mary's Mantle](#) in Southfield, [CARES of Farmington Hills](#), [Focus: Hope](#), [Meals on Wheels](#))

Closing Prayer: (Leaders: We recommended offering time during the closing prayer for participants to offer personal intentions.) 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 pray, 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**