

## 32<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time



### **GIVE FROM THE HEART**

Today's readings contradict the "survival of the fittest." They dwell on those most in need. They are a call to action where strength lies in helping the weak.

In the ancient near east, widows were the most dramatic welfare cases. In a patriarchal society, widows suffered severely. Their situation was worsened when they had no children or parental homes for support. Elijah's request was more than simple. But the reading points out that those who respond to God's prophets are amply rewarded.

The psalms describe praise to God by the oppressed, the hungry, the stranger etc. The God who cares for such as these is due the highest praise.

In the Gospel the scribes are seen as trustees of widow's estates. The greater the piety they exhibit, they think, the more in demand they are as trustees. They draw their pay from the estates. Their greed drives widows to poverty. Jesus uses them as an example of those who exploit the poor. Jesus associates with the dispossessed. Discipleship is a call to their service. The Gospel emphasizes that strength lies in helping the weak.

The disturbing news is that the God of scripture will meet the needs of the weak only through our efforts. The God of strength now defers to us in our strength so that we reach out to the weak. In aiding the weak, we become stronger. Strength lies in helping the weak.