



September 28, 2025

Twenty-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Am 6:1a, 4-7 | 1 Tim 6:11-16 | Lk 16:19-31

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

GROW AS A DISCIPLE | PRAY, STUDY, ENGAGE, SERVE

Have you ever had a moment when you felt yourself to be the underdog, and wished that there were some champion who would come and defend your cause? Today, we see God described in those terms. Our psalm tells us that the Lord “raises up those who are bowed down,” that he “protects strangers,” and “the fatherless and the widow he sustains.” But God doesn’t stop there. He wants *us* to become champions for the poor. Notice that our Gospel reading depicts the poor man named Lazarus in such a way that we cannot help but feel compassion for him. Here is a man who is in dire need, covered in sores, right outside the door of a rich man who has more than enough to provide for his own needs and those of Lazarus – but does nothing to help him. In fact, the rich man’s *dog* shows more compassion toward Lazarus (by licking his sores) than the rich man! The story is meant to prick our consciences and move us to have the same kind of response that God has – of compassion – leading us to become champions for those in need.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

Throughout our history, the Church has been particularly effective at spreading the faith during those times when we’ve put care for the poor and vulnerable at the center of our action. Before the advancements of modern medicine, members of the early Church risked their lives to care for those sick with contagious diseases. Their selfless example led many to faith in Christ. While our situation is much different today, we are called at the beginning of the first reading to not be complacent in our efforts to care for the poor. As we serve those most in need, our witness will likewise draw others to seek to know and follow the God of compassion whom we serve.

SERVE

One of the ways we can fight against complacency is to engage in service. Check your parish or local charitable organizations for opportunities to serve those in need in your community. No matter what kind of service you choose to engage in, do everything with “love, patience, and gentleness,” as Paul reminds us today. Then we will be models of God’s own care for the poor.