



25th SUNDAY of ORDINARY TIME YEAR C – September 22, 2019

Several years ago, many of our parishioners experienced serious flooding in the basements of their homes and all kinds of damage from tree limbs and flying debris. Recently, the victims of hurricane Dorian have had the same experience. Our second collection today will be used to help those people. You have always been generous to people in need and I thank you for all the good you do.

It is hard to imagine that some people would take advantage of those who suffer such tragedies but each time such tragedies happen, there are those among us, who see it as an opportunity to make money at the expense of the victims. God gives those folks a stern warning in the first reading today (AM 8:4-7)

He says, “Hear this all you who trample on the needy and destroy the poor of the land. I will keep a record of your deeds. What you do will not go un-noticed. You will not go unpunished.” Powerful words that need no further explanation.

When we look at the second reading (1 Timothy 2:1-8), we hear God ask us to pray for those who have authority over us. He says, "I ask that supplications, prayers and petitions be offered for everyone, but most of all for people who are in authority, so that the rest of us can lead quiet and tranquil lives." Do you pray for people in authority? Does that include the Pope and the President of the United States.

It is always good to pray for people in authority. Lord Acton reminds us, “Power corrupts and absolute power corrupts absolutely”. Whether it's the head of a country or the head of a church, our prayers can help them to make decisions with the common good in mind - decisions that have priorities in the right order. Are there some people in authority you do not like? Do you take time to pray for them?

In the Gospel today (Luke 16:1-13), we are asked to look at our own priorities. How important is God in your life...? How important is money in your life...? Are the priorities in your life in the right order or is money on the top of the list?

For a few moments in silence, reflect on how your priorities are arranged. Where does God fit in?



***“DON'T TELL ME WHAT YOU BELIEVE...
SHOW ME WHAT YOU DO...
AND I CAN TELL YOU WHAT YOU BELIEVE”***