

## HOMILY 32<sup>ND</sup> SUN OTYRB 2018

I am going to do something a little different today during the homily. We are going to pray a form of prayer called *lectio divina*. Today we are going to use the Gospel reading. This form of *lectio divina* is using your imagination to put yourself in the Scripture passage, to go beyond the words that are written, and to discern what God is telling you through the passage. It does not matter so much what scripture scholars say the passage means, it is how it speaks to you. You can do this yourself in your personal prayer time using any Scripture reading. The weekend Gospel reading is a good one to use. I am going to guide you through that today. I am going to read the Gospel passage, retell the story in my own words using my own imagination, and then ask some questions. If you hear something that resonates with you stay with that in prayer and block out what I am saying. I will then give you a couple of minutes of quiet prayer at the end. So, relax, close your eyes, and put your feet flat on the floor and your hands in your lap. Relax your arms and legs, relax your neck, unclench your jaw, relax and listen. [Read the Gospel].

There are a lot of people here at the temple today. That is to be expected because that is what faithful Jews do on the Sabbath. We go to temple. I found Jesus today. I have heard about him before but this is the first time I have seen him. I am kind of surprised. He does not look like a religious leader. I can usually pick out the religious leaders. They are usually well dressed with long robes. And Jesus does not look too prosperous. I can pick out the wealthy people by what they wear. Jesus is dressed like me. He looks like one of us. Jesus is talking to a small group of people. I am going to move closer so I can hear what he is saying. He is telling them not to act like they are better than others. I know that some of the scribes do that. They intimidate me. But Jesus is saying not to do that. It is not about us and them. It is just us. Where Jesus is sitting, he can see what people are putting into the treasury. The rich people want everyone to see what they are giving. They want people to see how generous they are. Jesus is telling us that these contributions are needed so that we can do all of the things we need to do at the temple. Those who have must contribute so that we can help those in need. Jesus seems to be able to look into people's hearts and souls. He seems to know everything about them. He is saying that some of

the people are being very generous. Some people appear to be giving a lot but it is not much compared with the great wealth that they have. Everything they have came from God and they need to share it with those in need. Jesus says that if everyone gave their fair share, and those in need took just what they need, everyone would be fine. And we could pay for the operation of the temple. A woman comes forward and puts two small coins in the treasury worth a few cents. Jesus says: "She is a poor widow. She has contributed everything that she has. She really trusts that God will provide for her. If only some of the rich people had that trust." How did Jesus know that about her? Jesus is getting up. He is talking to the woman. He is talking to her and giving her some food. Jesus is walking back to his group. He notices me in the crowd. He is walking right toward me. I wonder if he can see into my heart soul. I am a little nervous, but I feel drawn to him. I wonder what he is going to say to me.

Imagine that you are in the crowd today and Jesus is walking toward you. What does he say to you? Does he tell you that you should be giving more to the Church and to other charities? Does he tell you that you should be doing more good with the wealth that God has provided you with? Are you in need of help right now? Financially, spiritually, emotionally? Are you willing to reach out to the people who can help you? Is Jesus telling you to be more involved at St. Edith? Does Jesus want to have a conversation with you about what he wants you to do at St. Edith? Is it time to start doing the ministry that you have been thinking about? Is Jesus telling you that you should be talking to other people that you meet about him? Should you be inviting people that you meet to come to St. Edith for Mass or for other activities? Should you be doing something to lead your family closer to him and his church? Does he want you to unleash the Gospel?