

HOMILY FOR TWENTY SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME AND CATHOLIC CHARITIES DAY

1. Today is about contrasting stories
 - a. Jesus tells a story of a man who is well off
 - i. He wears fashionable clothes and eats lavishly
 - ii. He eats so well that the beggar Lazarus would have gladly eaten his fill of the scraps thrown away
 - iii. Since Lazarus was out at his door, the rich man probably found it more convenient to feed the dogs than share his scraps
 - iv. The only refreshment given to Lazarus are dogs licking his sores
 - b. Both men die and the tables are turned
 - i. Lazarus rest in the bosom of Abraham
 - ii. The rich man is getting his reward of torment in netherworld
 - iii. He now recognizes Lazarus and asks Abraham to send Lazarus over to relieve his pain with a drop of water
 - iv. It is an interesting note that he does not address Lazarus directly
 - v. He wants Lazarus to be the servant of Abraham to help him out
 - vi. Then he asks Abraham to send Lazarus to rise from the dead and warn his brothers
 - c. Abraham's response, if they do not listen to the prophets, will they listen even to a man risen from the dead
2. Jesus is presenting Himself as the key to understanding the parable
 - a. Jesus is the one who has risen
 - b. Are we able to hear him and avoid being the rich man who has ignored the hungry and homeless, the Lazarus who lives among us?
3. In light of this parable it is good to consider the role of Catholic Charities
 - a. Catholic Charities is an arm of the Church of the Diocese of Fargo
 - b. In the stories presented by the video we see the Church reaching out to assist the vulnerable and needy who live among us
 - c. We look to these stories as hope for ourselves
 - d. By our participation in and support of the works of Catholic Charities, we have hope that we are not seen by God as being the rich man of Jesus' story
4. The Resurrection of Jesus has touched us
 - a. Through the work of Catholic Charities we are reaching out to the Lazarus's of this world.