



## Simple Spiritual Reflection

*The following spiritual reflections focus on our Vincentian lives, both at a personal level and as members of the Society. They delve, among others, into our common bond in serving others; relationships with our neighbours-in-need and with one another; our journey together toward holiness; and the SSVP mission and selected guiding principles and fundamental characteristics.*

*Conference and Councils may consider using them in their future regular meeting.*

### **Reflection: Offering Richness of Poverty – March 2024**

*Jesus looked up and saw rich people putting their gifts into the treasury; he also saw a poor widow put in two small copper coins. He said, "Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all of them; for all of them have contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty, has put in all she had to live on." (Luke 21.1-4)*

In his November 17, 2023 homily, Fr. Felix Anthony, O. Carm., just appointed Pastor of St. Martin of Tours (Mississauga, ON) parish delved deeply into a paradox unfolding before us:

*The Gospel story is not simply about the treasury of money. It is rather about the treasury of poverty. Most of us have not seen or experienced the riches of poverty very often. Instead we tend to view poverty as a problem to be eliminated and solved, not as a source of power and glory. However, it is a virtue to be interiorized. The poor widow – as she embodies the virtue of spiritual poverty - becomes our teacher and we her students. By chipping in two small copper coins, she put in everything she had, all she had to live on. For what else does a poor widow have to give? She has no abundance, only the riches of poverty.*

*The spirit of generosity is not easy to measure. People who seem to be doing little may actually be making more effort than others who seem to be doing a lot. At the end of the day, only the Lord can measure generosity, because He alone knows what each is capable of giving. The riches of poverty come not from acquiring but from letting go. Spiritual poverty begins with letting go and it always reveals the fragile and vulnerable character of life. It takes us to the border between life and death where there are no guarantees – only hope, where there are no answers – only faith, and where there is no security – only love. This is where the poor widow lives. This is where God lives. And they live in union as one. In the face of the poor widow – the face of spiritual poverty – Christ sees and recognizes Himself.*

*All around us are people who are living for the Lord, but seldom receive human recognition. Jesus, however, notices. He knows people's hearts as they give and serve. Not one kindness we do in the name of Jesus and for the glory of the Kingdom will be forgotten. Not one sacrifice for the Savior will go unnoticed. He knows the truth behind our gifts and is blessed when they come from a generous, joyous, and sacrificial heart.*



## Reflection Questions

1. Describe the recent time you found yourself to be extra-generous.
2. How much of your present life is free to receive God's many blessings? How many ways can you utmost share your material and spiritual resources with others, giving witness to Christ's self-giving and living love?

**Let us pray...** Lord, allow Your unbounded love to enrich our hearts and minds, and help us to practice charity without any expectations and pretensions. Give us the grace to use the gifts You have entrusted us, and put ourselves wholly at Your disposal.

Jose I. Torres, Chair National Spirituality Committee

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About the writer: Jose is a chartered professional accountant. He is a member of Saint John of the Cross, Mississauga, Ontario Conference, a member of the Greater Toronto Central Council Spirituality Committee, and president as well as spiritual facilitator of the Peel North Particular Council.

*For those interested in contributing spiritual reflections, please email [jose.torres@rogers.com](mailto:jose.torres@rogers.com). Also, for current and past months' reflections that may be used in group meeting's spirituality segment, please check out [Spirituality - Society of Saint Vincent de Paul - National Council of Canada \(ssvp.ca\)](http://ssvp.ca).*