

Homily  
Memorial of St Martin of Tours, Bishop  
November 11, 2022

“...whatever you did for one of the least brothers of mine, you did for me.”

We come to Mass to be encouraged by the Word of God and to be strengthened by the Eucharist. We are then sent forth to be Christ in the world. We first prepare then we engage. How fitting it is that today we celebrate the Memorial of St. Martin of Tours.

In today's Gospel, we hear Jesus telling us how we will be separated on judgement day; the sheep from the goats. The message is clear: be one of the sheep. And we do this by serving one another.

St. Martin lived in 4<sup>th</sup> century Rome around the time Christianity was made legal. Against his parent's wishes, Martin attended the Christian church and became a catechumen. He was required to join the military since he was the son of a veteran officer. It was in service that he experienced a vision that became the most repeated story of his life. As he was approaching the city gates, he passed a scantily clad beggar. He impulsively took his sword and cut his cloak in two and gave half to the beggar. He then dreamed of Jesus wearing that half of his cloak and telling the angels that Martin gave the cloak to Him. The next morning, Martin's cloak was miraculously restored.

We cannot outgive God. But we first must give. I need to be reminded of this. How often to I have the opportunity to give of myself, of my time, talent and treasure and choose not to. How often do I recognize someone in need and think of myself first.

If only I could be more like Martin, giving impulsively of that which God has already given me so abundantly. I count my blessings, not often enough, and then have the opportunity to share. I have been so blessed and then I see those around me in need.

When I dismiss us at the end of Mass, I, too, am sending myself forth to be Christ in the world. I, too, need to remember that everyone I meet is Christ in the world. We are all many parts; we are all one body. And we are one with Him.

Jesus reminds us of this; when we see someone in need, the hungry, the thirsty, the stranger, the naked, the sick, the prisoner, we see Christ. When we feed, welcome, clothe, care for, visit someone in need, we do this for Christ.

That's what St. Martin did and that is what we are called to do. Yes, we all give of our time, talent and treasure. Yes, we care for those in need. But how often to we look for opportunities to do more. We can never outgive our God.