

**Deacon Tony's Homily for the 28<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time.**

THE POOR RICH GUY.

The poor rich guy!

He is observing all of God's commands and still is looking for a reassurance that he will inherit eternal life. Our Lord tells him that he is lacking in one thing.

His wealth became a distraction from serving God and his neighbor.

Many people in Jesus' time believed that wealth was a sign that one was favored by God if they had it.

**DID HE HAVE POSSESSIONS OR DID HIS POSSESSIONS HAVE HIM?**

This a question that we all must ask ourselves. Do our possessions possess us?

Are we preoccupied with accumulating more possessions than what we need?

The man with 5 shopping carts.

Are we obsessed with losing our things?

It is clear that he is lacking in relationships. God created us to be in relationship with those around us.

We are meant to not only be aware of those around us, but to actually treat them with respect due someone who is made in "the image and likeness of God". These are people that are loved by God.

Our Church teaches that we must insure an OPTION FOR THE POOR AND VULNERABLE. The poor are to be put ahead of us in line. We are called to have a special place in our hearts for the vulnerable.

This is what RELATIONSHIPS are about.

When we went to the food kitchen for the homeless, we didn't just put hot food on their plates but we were encouraged to sit and eat and talk with the guests and to get to know them personally. I found that we shared human values and had the same concerns about life's issues.

**WHERE DID THIS KIND OF TEACHING COME FROM? HOW DID THEY COME ABOUT?**

In the first reading we hear about the SPIRIT OF WISDOM and how it came to the writer. He deemed riches NOTHING in comparison to wisdom. The principles of the Church's teachings are a product of the Holy Spirit's gift of Wisdom and we are the benefactors of this great gift that teaches us about RELATIONSHIPS.

God's great gift of Wisdom, that leads us to right relationships, when used to benefit others is the only way to true peace of mind and the blessed assurance of life in eternity with God.