

2018.11.10 Homily by Fr. Gabor – B5

This weekend is Remembrance day and we remember those who gave the most they had in war conflicts, their lives; the many adults and children who died in war conflicts especially in the first and second world wars and in wars ever since then.

It is a heroic thing to give everything in war conflicts, and we respect and remember the departed souls, and remembering them can be an encouragement to each one of us to make sacrifices for a higher cause.

In today's first reading a woman who lost her husband and only had a son makes a heroic sacrifice not in war time, but in peaceful time; she gives Elijah the last piece of food she has knowing that not only her, but her son will also die of hunger. It is heroic to sacrifice your own life, but it is even more heroic to sacrifice your child's life for the sake of the survival of another human being. It is unimaginably difficult for a mother to do that.

However in that moment of total self-sacrifice the Lord speaks to the woman through Elijah and promises that He will reward her for her unassuming generosity.

St. Paul remind us in the second reading, when he writes about Jesus' sacrifice on the cross, that all true sacrifices need to come from the love of God and man, and from a sense of mercy. He died on the cross not merely out of love for us, but also out of mercy for us as we were still sinners in need of God's forgiveness. The widow, by giving Elijah all she has, shows an admirable example of mercy; she saves his life.

Again in the Gospel reading we see a poor widow who gives everything she has, just so that someone else may benefit from her sacrifice. Jesus' reaction to that shows what God really appreciates in giving; not the amount, but how it affects the donor. This widow makes a very risky donation, which indicates her trust in God's providence as the donation happens in the temple. She has no husband who could earn the coin that she put into the box, but she is alone. She knows that God will continue to care about her in some way. She may not know just how, but help will come, because the Lord cares for those who give generously, beyond every imagination.

Giving away something that is important for us always comes with a sense of loss, but when you know that someone else who is in real need benefits from your sacrifice the sense of loss is replaced with a sense of peace inside that you did the right thing.

Giving away something is not necessarily about money, but it can also be about giving our time and attention to someone or visit and listen to those in need or even just phone them up. So giving can be many different things.

The most difficult thing I guess is to sacrifice our own ego, especially when we are in an argument with someone or feel offended or hurt by someone. However every time when we give up defending our ego we learn something; namely that life is much bigger than our little world of ego and that God quietly and gently works in the background and cares about each one of us, often in the most unexpected ways. So when we give up our ego we see more of the spectrum of reality, and we notice God's presence much better.

No I will finish and thinking of God's presence and the greater spectrum of reality let us remember our loved ones and come forward and light a candle for them and for all those who have died in war conflicts!