

Today's Readings from Amos and Luke raise the question: What do we do with our wealth, abundance, gifts and blessings? Stewardship reminds us: All that we are and all that we have comes from God. All is a gift to us. How do we respond to such goodness?

We may not always think of ourselves this way, but each of us is rich, is wealthy, has abundance.

We have 24 hours each day. We have gifts and abilities. We have unique personalities and skills.

We have the option to hoard, to cling and to clutch what we have. Or we can pay attention to people and needs around us. We can share and give of ourselves from what we have received.

In the 1st Reading Amos is critical of those who took it easy in times of plenty and blessing. They had no interest, care or concern for the poor and needy. In the Gospel, the rich man did not notice hungry Lazarus. Being blind to the presence of Lazarus, the rich man couldn't respond with loving compassion.

Are we aware of our riches and wealth; our abundance, gifts and blessings? When we know what they are, we can share them. We can give them away. We can offer them to others so that they may have more life.

We can give our time in volunteering in our community, at school, in the neighborhood, and here at the parish. We can give monetary contributions to so many worthwhile causes. We can give our smiles away; share our joy; extend forgiveness; spread peace; listen with our ears as well as with our hearts and souls. Some of us may be able to donate blood. All of us can give some of our time in prayer.

My sisters and brothers: Amos challenged the people of his day. Jesus challenged the people of his day. The Scriptures challenge us today. The way of the Disciple is: be grateful to God for blessings received; notice, pay attention and respond to the needs of others.

Are we willing to do so?