

January 29, 2023
Fourth Sunday In Ordinary Time
Zephaniah 2:3;3:12-13
Psalms 146
1 Corinthians 1:26-31
Matthew 5:1-12a

**Preferential Option for the Poor
Part of Stewardship**

The prophet Zephaniah, speaking for the Lord, addresses the people of Israel. They had been in troubled times since they failed to observe the call of God. They had become overconfident in themselves and neglected to see God was the driving force of any good fortune that had come to them. They were haughty as any of their former oppressors.

After their exile there would be a humble remnant that would serve and not be served. "They shall do no wrong and speak no lies; nor shall there be found in their mouths a deceitful tongue; they shall pasture and couch their flocks with none to disturb them." Is it possible this may happen? Can humanity live in such harmony?

Let it be put this way. This is the call of God. Everyone must choose to respond to the call. Each person has responsibility. Saint Paul drives home this call of God and how and who God chooses.

God chooses the foolish, the lowly and those who count for nothing. Paul gives the reason for this. God uses such people to inform and put into place those who either do not recognize His call or who decide not to heed it. It is to "reduce to nothing those who are something, so that no human being might boast before God." It is due to God, not our own volition, that humankind is blessed in any way.

Over the centuries God's Church has come to better discern and understand God's call.

We have discerned God has a preferential option for the poor. It is an enlightenment most expounded in the 20th century and into this one. It is the social justice teaching of the Church.

This "preference" has always been a concern for God. However, it is Pope Leo XIII who first formalizes the call in official teaching. Pope Leo XIII writes of this in his encyclical *Rerum Novarum*. In the letter he says capital must serve labor. Providing work is the function of an economy, for labor gives dignity to humankind. Labor takes precedence over capital and technology along with a just wage and the rights of workers. Economic justice is the key to contemporary social questions.

In 1968 Father Pedro Arrupe, who was the superior of the Jesuits coined the phrase, "preferential option for the poor". This concept that is a thread throughout the

Scriptures and Tradition of Christianity is based in Biblical texts such as Matthew 25.

Saint John Paul II (1991) in *Centesimus Annos* connected spiritual poverty with material poverty. Pope Benedict XVI said preference for the poor is an obligation of Christians. It includes all the marginalized of society. This includes widows, children, people with disabilities, victims of oppression and more.

There are plenty of reasons for suffering in the world. We see it and we experience it. It does make us uncomfortable. None of us likes seeing another person be down and/or in distress. The sight awakens us all too well we are the next one who may suffer the same way. Even a very wealthy person may lose all he or she has. Or, as my running buddy Abe always points out, "you can have lots of money but no good health. So, what good is the money?"

As a community of faith, let us always be alert and aware of each other's needs. Many people here are so aware and do work for justice. Let us pray God will always make available whatever is needed by us to serve others. Let the words we read in the prophet be true for us, "...they shall pasture and couch their flocks with none to disturb them."

Let us keep our preference for the poor.

Archbishop's Charities and Development Drive
Our Parish Goal is \$62,000.00.
WE can make this goal!

If you have questions about the ABCD you may contact the Development Office of the Archdiocese.
www.AdomDevelopment.org
305-762-1243

<u>STEWARDSHIP</u> Time, Talent, Tithing	
It is our way of showing gratitude to God for life itself. It is also your way of being part of the mission and participating in the challenge of spreading the Good News of Love.	
Attendance last week:	305
Tithes Collected:	\$4,624.00
Online Giving:	\$757.00
Total:	\$5,381.00
Per Capita:	\$17.64
Thank You!	

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Is58:7-10;1Cor2:1-5;Mt5:13-16

Please read the readings before celebrating Mass.

Scripture Sharing Thursday @ 7pm.

FAITH FORMATION

One of the best ways to form ourselves in Faith is to participate in the Liturgy every Sunday!

COMMUNITY

Also Needed In Our Parish Apostolates

- **Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist** who will visit the Nursing Homes and private homes. You will receive vetting and training for this apostolate. You also must be available to help distribute Communion at Sunday Liturgies.

- **The Store of Inspiration:** Fr. Bob is interested in interviewing people who might be helpful, organized retailers in our store. Please contact Fr. Bob at the rectory: 954-564-1010

2023 Retreat schedule

Now is the perfect time to give yourself or your loved one the gift of a spiritual retreat at Our Lady of Florida Spiritual Center. The 2023 theme is "Whatever you ask in my name" (John 14:13)

Women's Retreat

February 24-26, 2023

Reserve your space for only \$50.00. The balance of \$190 is due at the retreat

Men's Retreat

March 3-5, 2023

Register via the website: www.ourladyofflorida.org or call 561-626-1300

Optional information

Things to Know

- All rooms are private bedrooms with a full size bed, in roommate style accommodations (shared bathroom per two rooms)
- Check in time is from 5:00 pm to 7:30 pm on Friday with dinner from 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm
- Retreat talks usually begin Friday at 7:00 pm and end on Sunday by Noon, casual clothes recommended

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK: Joe Alfaro, Jordan Almendral, JoAnn Anderson, Angiolina Armenti, Michael Beard, Karen Becker, Mary Benivegna, Margarita Bogle, Tom Carver, Sean Chin, Robert Clark, Mary Collis, John Cooper, Logan Costante, Gregoria Daen, Sam DeMarco, Ines DeSalle, Roseanne DeSimone, Lisa DeStasio, Joseph Devlin, John Dooney, Nelson Douaihi, Peggy Duff, Susan Fabbri, Lisa Findlay, Megan Forrester, Joshua Freeman, Richard Gossett, Ana Gilajota, Stephen Goch, Keri Greenan, Richard & Cathy Harper, Tyler Harrison, Dil Hatchett, Cindy Hogman, Tiffany Kentosh, Butch Klinger, Judith Kolo, Arnold Lakso, John LaNeve, Tamika Lee, Bernie Liggett, Gail Martin, Sean Martin, Mary McKelvey, Clare McMahan, Frank McNeil, Rylee Mertz, Dan Murphy, Teresita Nazareno, Lauren Nicole, Thomas O'Brien, Barbara Perry, Della Mae Reblin, Lucy Reitano, Coleen Riley, Paul Riley, Dee Ripple, Jackson Ripple, Matilda Rivier, Charles Rousseau, Anthony Ruggiero, Theresa Schluter, Brad Schroder, Ellen Seaman, Roger Sherman, Jim Smullen, Vivian Spasiano, Rick Steffan, M. Stoufer, Richard Taylor, Antoinette Teresi, Constantino Thomas, Renette Valcourt, Sr. Frances Vass, OSC, Margarita Verano, Peggy Weiss, Ed Wrisley, Nancy Zakem, Marie & Jeff, Lucas Zaky

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, January 28

4:00 p.m. † Eleanore Goater by Paul & Marylou

† James Cowden by Dennis Kucharewski

Sunday, January 29

9:00 a.m. Blessed Sacrament Parish

10:45 a.m. † Alan Worrall by Carla Worrall

Monday, January 30

8:00 a.m. NO MASS/OFFICE CLOSED

Tuesday, January 31

8:00 a.m. † Antoinette Mannino by Tommy Mannino

Wednesday, February 1

8:00 a.m. Selma Cardona by self

Thursday, February 2

8:00 a.m. † Salvatore Mannino by Tommy Mannino

Friday, February 3

8:00 a.m. † Deceased Relatives by Bill & Chris

Saturday, February 4

4:00 p.m. † E. Thomas Marchese by Dave
† Joseph Gero by Dennis, Gregory, & Ruthie Kucharewski

Sunday, February 5

9:00 a.m. † Dan Blaha, Jr. by Jordan Family

10:45 a.m. † Cardinal Pell by Parish