

Reflection Monday 2nd Week Lent 2024

However generous we are towards others Jesus says we will never lose out. Although Jesus says whatever we give we will receive back, in reality it always seems that, whatever and however generous we are, we receive back much more than we give. What we receive is never seen as a reward but as a blessing and inner growth that can only come from God and is a reassurance of God's love for us.

The whole question of not judging others rests on the way we see ourselves. If we really acknowledge our own faults and failings and how they harm others, it becomes very hard to see oneself as better than others and makes it impossible to even think of judging others.

There is a saying when looking at the situation of others, particularly the homeless and those facing economic difficulties, we say "*But for the grace of God there go I!*" We can only do the good things we do in life with the power and support of God's grace working in us.

The Homeless Julie Achilles

I watch as you sit alone - dejected
many chose not to see you,
nor to look upon your tear-stained face.
We do not know your story lest we judge
and from where you came it matters not
although you are a stranger to me
seeking shelter from the rain.
I could help to ease your suffering -
show a friendly face,
or I, like so many, could walk on by,
but I think - *'there, but by the grace of God, go I'*