

The Sixteenth Sunday of the Year July 18th 2021

Introduction

Mother Teresa, now SAINT, used speak a lot about poverty,--- and she should know about it because she spent most of her life working for the destitute . But her definition of poverty is different. --- Material poverty is the only poverty most people are aware of. --- But Mother Theresa says there is a worse kind of poverty than that. ---It is to be LONELY ---UNLOVED---and UNWANTED. Thus it is possible to be materially well off, ---and yet be amongst the poorest of the poor.

She gives an example of what she means. ---She tells how one day she visits an old people's home. It was well run, --- orderly ---clean ---and neat. The food was good. The staff was well trained, highly efficient and on the whole treated the old people with good care .An ideal place to end one's days? --- Not so!

As she moved among the old people she noticed not a single one of them smiled. ---She noticed something else. --- They kept on looking towards the door. She asked one of the nurses why this was so. The nurse replied ____” They are looking for someone to come and visit them. --- But no one ever comes. --- It's the same everyday . No one ever comes. ---The phrase haunted Mother Teresa. It was then she became convinced that these people were suffering a great poverty. --- They had been

abandoned by their families and friends and put away in this home.

We come to today's Gospel. The Apostles had just returned from their first experience of missionary work. They were tired and needed a rest. Christ knew this and showed his concern for them by inviting them to go off with him to a quiet place on the far side of the lake. But it did not work out like that. The people saw them getting into the boat and followed them. They were in need.

We are all in need. At times our minds are confused, our hearts restless , --- and our souls empty. Above all we need love. At heart we all yearn to love and to be loved. I need not just to be admired but to be loved There is a great hunger at the center of our being for someone who will understand me and accept me with all my lostnes. I need the care of Christ the GOOD SHEPHERD.

CONCLUSION

Lord lead me from death to life,--- from error to TRUTH ---
From despair to HOPE ---From fear to Trust ---From HATE TO
LOVE ---FROM WAR TO PEACE.

Help me to listen to your voice .To TRUST you and follow you .--- You carry all my hopes and dreams . ---You alone can

give me what I hunger and thirst for --- my heavenly Father's
love and eternal life in his kingdom.

AMEN.