

**Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time “C” Cycle September 17-18, 2016**

**You may remember the 1987 movie *Wall Street* featuring Michael Douglas, Charlie and Martin Sheen. The main character Gordon Gekko is a well-to-do but unscrupulous investment manager who engages in illegal insider trading and assists in the corruption of a young broker. In an infamous speech, Gekko states that “greed is good.” In the end he is arrested and given a jail sentence.**

**The message of today’s Scriptures is a condemnation of greed and dishonesty. Greed is one of the capital sins, one of the so-called “seven deadly sins.” This is because it not only harms others but also corrupts the individual.**

**In the first reading, from the Old Testament prophet Amos, the prophet castigates the greedy of the Northern Kingdom of Israel for their exploitation of the poor. He exposes their dishonest business practices and their accountability before God.**

**The Gospel, from Saint Luke, gives Jesus’ parable about an unscrupulous steward who mismanaged his employer’s property and is fired. The steward then appeals to his employer’s debtors, granting them favorable terms, most likely eliminating his own commission and winning favor with them for the future.**

**The steward is not praised for his dishonesty but for his cleverness in providing for his future. Jesus goes on to wish that his disciples, including us, the children of light, would be as prudent in making use of the riches, especially the spiritual blessings we enjoy.**

**The Lord also teaches about being trustworthy and honest in small and great matters. We can only give full allegiance to one master, God. We cannot and should not, for our spiritual well-being, serve both God and mammon, the pursuit of material possessions equally.**

**There are several practical lessons in today’s Scriptures. We are to be fair and honest in dealing with one another. We are to avoid greed in any form. We ought to be grateful for what we have and to be generous with our spiritual and material resources.**

**This means we should pray for each other and for those most in need of God’s presence in their lives. It also means give generously of our time, energies, and financial resources to the needy and worth-while charities. In our parish all are**

**encouraged to drop off non-perishable food items in the basket of our vestibule and also to participate in our *Aid For Friends Food and Friendship* ministry.**

**I trust that you will permit me to insert a commercial for our parish needs. We too need your spiritual and financial support to meet our expenses and serve our parishioners and the wider community in the Lord's name.**

**Contrary to Wall Street's Gordon Gekko, greed is not good. It only leads to misery and self-destruction.**

**As we celebrate our 28<sup>th</sup> anniversary as a parish next week, may we recommit ourselves to being the Lord's children of light, cleverly seeking the true riches of faith, hope, charity, and generosity.**