



February 2019

St John's Mission, Peace, and Justice Society

Volume 1, Issue 5



## Upcoming Events:

- ~~Clothes Drive:~~  
~~Oct. 19th~~
- ~~Adopt a Family:~~  
~~Dec 2018~~
- ~~Blood Drive: Dec~~  
~~5th, 8-1 PM~~
- Talent Show & Auction: Mar 1, 2019
- Lent: Almsgiving
- Blood Drive: May 7th
- Book Exchange, May 2019

## MPJ Team

- Enrique Piceno
- Emmanuel Delfin
- Manny Ramos
- Jorge Tellez
- Simon Li
- Jorge Moncada Hernandez
- Christian Morquecho

## Talent Show & Auction

I don't have much to say this month but to please attend the MPJ Talent Show & Auction on March 1, 2019. Your full active participation is required to make this event a success and help out the Trinitarians of Mary's ministry.

This month Simon Li gives his reflection on the poor.

Enrique Piceno, MPJ Lead

## Serving the Poor

By Simon Li

As Enrique stated in our first Newsletter, the Society of Mission, Peace, and Justice focuses in particular on the poor and marginalized. This is of particular importance to the spiritual life of us as individuals and that of the church because the poor we minister to are a reflection of the poverty which is in all of us. Keeping this in mind, I believe that the poor widow in Mark 12 is the model which we should all imitate. We specifically model the poor widow by giving from our own poverty, and this is possible because God has created poverty. This poverty is not based on a lack of anything but is rather based on the knowledge that God has of the individual. God has created us in this state not because he wanted us to constantly fall, but because he wants us to rely on him for everything, to have him as our sole strength because he had given everything in creating us. Therefore, to create us in the image of poverty is a reflection of the cost with which God has bought us.

The poor widow highlights in particular the first beatitude which states "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven" (Matt 5:3). This statement essentially speaks of humility because humility comes about through an acceptance of poverty. Humility is spoken of as being the foundation of all virtues because it derives its source from our initial condition. It is no coincidence that this is the first statement of the beatitudes as the beatitudes as a whole shows us the structure and hierarchy of values within our relationship with God and each other.

Giving to the poor by giving from our own poverty is so crucial to the Christian life because in doing this we become open to the presence of God. MPJ should not solely have as its mission the goal of eradicating or diminishing suffering even if it were possible, otherwise we would be aiming for a utopia without meaning. It is no coincidence then that the two key words in the beatitudes which speaking of inheriting the kingdom of heaven have to do with poverty and suffering. To make heaven present we are to live out the beatitudes in the same way that Jesus became man as outlined in the Christ Hymn where Jesus humbled himself becoming obedient to the point of death on the cross. Heaven does not become present by getting rid of poverty or suffering because these two conditions are necessary in the true gift of self. The conditions in which God created us put us in a unique position to experience a relationship with him because he has allowed us to participate in what it cost to love us. God has allowed us to experience this cost because it allows us to experience the value of love more fully, and this is why the poor have been given to us and the reason we serve them.