

# 29th Sunday in Ordinary Time

**Luke 18:1-8**

**‘God will give justice to his elect, who cry to him.’**

At that time: Jesus told his disciples a parable to the effect that they ought always to pray and not lose heart. He said, ‘In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor respected man. And there was a widow in that city who kept coming to him and saying, “Give me justice against my adversary.” For a while he refused, but afterwards he said to himself, “Though I neither fear God nor respect man, yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will give her justice, so that she will not beat me down by her continual coming.”’

And the Lord said, ‘Hear what the unrighteous judge says. And will not God give justice to his elect, who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long over them? I tell you, he will give justice to them speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?’

## Reflection

This Gospel reminds us of the power of persistence in prayer and in doing good, even when it feels like nothing is changing.

The widow doesn’t give up. She keeps showing up, keeps speaking out, and eventually, even an unjust judge listens. Jesus tells us this not to say God is like the judge, slow and reluctant, but to say that if even he responds to persistence, how much more will our loving God respond to us?

As young Vincentians, we know that change doesn’t always come quickly. Poverty, injustice, and loneliness don’t disappear overnight. Sometimes it feels like we pray, speak out, and act, and the world stays the same. But Jesus tells us: don’t lose heart. Keep praying. Keep showing up. Keep believing that God hears the cry of the poor and of those who walk with them.

Blessed Frédéric Ozanam faced criticism and doubt when he first began the Society of St Vincent de Paul. But like the widow, he didn’t give up. He believed that action and faith could change lives. So did St Louise de Marillac, Rosalie Rendu, and St Vincent de Paul himself.

So today, remember: your voice matters. Your prayers matter. Your persistence matters. Stay faithful, stay active, and trust that God is with you in every step you take for justice.

## Materials needed

Printed ladder

Pens

## Activity

Invite participants to take a few moments for silent reflection on a time when they wanted to help someone or make a change but felt it was too difficult or gave up. Encourage them to think about what made it hard, how they felt when they stepped back, and what it might take to try again, even in a small way.

Ask each participant to write one small step they could take to re-engage with that situation on one rung of the ladder. Optionally, they can also write something they might need help with, such as support, prayer, or encouragement, on another rung. Place their notes on the ladder, creating a visual representation of how small actions can help us climb toward justice and kindness.

This creates a tangible reminder that even when things feel difficult, small, consistent steps toward helping others can make a real difference.

## Call to Action

Choose one person in your community who may be struggling with loneliness, poverty, or isolation and commit to a simple, ongoing way to support them over the next month. This could be through visiting, sending a note, helping with practical needs, or simply being present and listening.

The key is consistency. Just like the widow in the Gospel, your small, repeated actions can make a lasting difference. Even if it feels like nothing is changing, keep showing up. Your presence, care, and prayers matter.



