29th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Luke 18: 1–8

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?"

Some things to think about...

Why is it important not to give up when we are trying to help others?
What things might make us want to give up?
How can we help each other in our Mini Vinnies group to keep going on a project? (E.g. when you don't receive many donations for a Food Bank collection)

Activity

Write a motivational speech or plan a performance about not giving up even when things are hard.

Materials needed for the activity:

Paper
Pens/pencils
Props

Teacher's Notes

The Parable of the Persistent Widow teaches believers to pray always and not lose heart by contrasting an unjust human judge with a loving heavenly Father. The parable shows that if an unlawful judge will grant justice out of sheer persistence, surely God, a just and loving Father, will answer the prayers of His children.

Frédéric Ozanam was a great campaigner for the rights of the marginalised in society. Today, the SVP still follows his example by not only helping people directly, but also by campaigning for social justice.

We can take the message of this reading to keep persevering as Mini Vinnies to do our best to look after people in our community and stand up for what we believe in.

Notes: