

NOVEMBER 3 2025 FATHER ROSHAN LOY D’SOUZA

A years ago, a small-town newspaper reported a moving story that made its way around the internet.

A small diner had a “pay it forward” system. Customers could leave money at the register to cover a future meal for someone in need. One cold evening, a homeless man came in. He was hesitant, his clothes were worn, and his eyes showed a mix of hunger and shame. The staff smiled at him and said: “Don’t worry—your meal is already covered.” They seated him, served him a hot plate of food, and treated him with the same dignity they gave every other customer.

The man ate quietly and left without many words. But the next day, he returned. This time, he carried no money, only a handful of wildflowers he had picked along the roadside. Placing them gently on the counter, he said: “I can’t repay you, but I want to give you what I can.”

That simple act touched everyone in the restaurant. It was a reminder that the most beautiful gifts often come from those who cannot “repay” in the usual sense. That little story captures something essential about the heart of God. God’s giving is not transactional. He does not love us because we can repay Him. He gives because He is love.

St. Paul reflects on this in today’s reading from Romans: “The gifts and the call of God are irrevocable.” What a powerful word—irrevocable. We live in a world where so much is conditional. Contracts can be broken. Friendships can fade. People change their minds. But not God. His call to Israel, His call to the Church, His call to each one of us—it is permanent. He does not withdraw it when we stumble. He does not cancel His love when we fail.

Paul becomes so overwhelmed by this truth that he cannot help but burst into praise: “Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways!” In other words, God’s generosity is beyond our reasoning. It cannot be calculated. It can only be adored.

And then, in the Gospel, Jesus invites us to mirror that same kind of generosity in our own lives. He says: “When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbors, in case they may invite you in return and you would be repaid. But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind.”

Jesus is not saying we should never invite family or friends to our table. Of course those bonds are important. But He is challenging us to expand our circle of love. True generosity goes beyond people who can repay us. It reaches out to those who cannot return the favor. That is divine generosity—love without strings attached.

Think of our own world. There are so many people who cannot “repay” us: the refugee who arrives with nothing but hope, the elderly neighbor who is lonely and forgotten, the single parent who struggles quietly to raise children, the person living on the streets who longs for dignity more than money. When we extend kindness to them, when we serve them with no thought of what we will get in return, we are walking in the footsteps of Christ Himself.

And therefore, the word of God invites us to:

Trust in God’s irrevocable call.

Your life may have twists, mistakes, or regrets, but none of them cancels God's love for you.

His hand remains stretched out, always inviting you to begin again. Never believe the lie that you are too far gone. God's mercy is deeper than your failures.

2. To Give without calculating.

So often we fall into the trap of measuring, weighing, asking "What's in it for me?" Jesus calls us to love more freely—to give to the poor, the broken, the forgotten, the people who cannot return the favor. That is when our love most closely resembles God's love.

3. Live with resurrection hope.

Jesus promises: "You will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous." The reward for selfless generosity is not always visible in this life. But God sees every act of mercy, every hidden kindness. And in eternity, He Himself will be our repayment.

Brothers and sisters, the story of the homeless man with the wildflowers reminds us of something crucial: gifts that cannot be repaid are the ones that touch the heart most deeply. That is how God deals with us. His gifts are irrevocable, His mercy unconditional.

Let us then live as people who reflect His heart: trusting in His steadfast call, giving without counting the cost, and living in joyful hope of the eternal banquet where every act of love will find its reward. Amen.