

## The Rich Man's Porch *continued from front cover*

This may not be much. But every little gift counts. A couple of dollars for a person on the street so he can buy something to eat. A warm jacket for someone who can no longer afford a new winter coat. A gift of paying one month's rent for someone who, for no fault of his own, is about to be evicted. A gift through IOCC to serve people in need around the world.

We may be tempted to come up with excuses why we need not help any of these people. "They made their bed; now they should lie in it." But if we do this, we end up ignoring not only our "porch" but the opportunity for our own salvation that Christ has given us so that we might serve Him Who is the poorest and the least of them all.

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*If you wish to contribute a reflection to the next issue of Priest to Priest, please email [rloumiotis@ioccc.org](mailto:rloumiotis@ioccc.org)*



# PRIEST *to* PRIEST

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## The Rich Man's Porch

In the parable of the rich man and Lazarus, we hear about a porch.

Upon the porch of the rich man lay Lazarus, who was hungry, naked, and very, very sick. But the rich man ignored Lazarus's plight. Evidently, the rich man did not believe himself to be responsible for Lazarus in any way, and for this he was eternally condemned.

Now I believe the "porch" in this parable functions as a spiritual metaphor. Because in a deeper and more dynamic way, the rich man's porch is the place in each of our lives where God, in His wisdom, places persons named Lazarus in our way. *That is, the "porch" is the intersection where the Lord, providentially, places those in need close to us so that we might help them.* For it is only by recognizing and acknowledging this place where the poor intersect with our daily lives that we can be saved.

So we ask ourselves, Who is on our porch? Who has God placed near us so that we might serve them? Could it be:

The homeless woman on the street corner asking for a handout?

An elderly widow with a fixed income who is struggling to buy enough food and medicine to stay healthy?

An old high-school friend who is despairing of his life because of his addiction to alcohol or drugs?

A grandparent who can no longer live on their own?

A good friend who recently lost his job and is drowning in debt?

An elderly uncle who needs a ride to the doctor?

An aged parishioner living in a nursing home with no one to come and visit?



*For I was hungry and you gave me food*  
— Matthew 25

Certainly, there may be times when we look on our porch and see so many people in need that we despair of ever being able to make a difference. But it is important to remember that as followers of Christ we are not asked to completely eliminate poverty or suffering in our world. Such things will remain with us until the very end of time. Instead, we are asked simply to do what we can by sharing something of what we have.

*continued on back cover*

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