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**33rd Sunday in Ordinary
Time
November 18-19, 2017**

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Questions, Comments Suggestions?
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Living Catholic in the 808: There is No Moral Neutrality

**By: Fr. Ron Rolheiser, OMI
Exerpt from Nov. 12 column,
"A Threat To Decency"
ronrolheiser.com**

St. Augustine teaches that we can never be morally neutral, either we are growing in virtue or falling into vice. We never have the luxury of simply being in some neutral, holding state. There's no moral neutrality. Either we are growing in virtue or sliding into virtue's opposite. That's true for all of life. A thing is either growing or it's regressing.

If we are not actively advocating for justice and the poor, it is inevitable that at a point we will, with completely sincere hearts, downplay the issues of poverty, racism, inequality, and injustice. And so we need to be alert not just to our conscious attitudes but to what we are actually doing.

Similarly, within any circle of friends, either we are talking about ways that we can more effectively lessen the gaps between rich and poor or we are talking, however unconsciously, about the need to defend the gaps that presently exist. One kind of conversation is stretching our hearts; the other is narrowing them.

As Bryan Stevenson puts in in *Just Mercy*, "The true measure of our character is how we treat the poor, the disfavored, the accused, the incarcerated, and the condemned. We are all implicated when we allow other people to be mistreated."