

**32nd Sunday in  
Ordinary Time  
November 10-11,  
2018**

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## **Living Catholic in the 808: A Substantial Gift**

**Very Rev. Msgr. Gary L. Secor, V.G.  
Rector, Cathedral Basilica of  
Our Lady of Peace**

"They gave a substantial gift." Usually, when we hear such a statement, we assume that someone has given a large sum of money or something very valuable in material terms. Today's scriptures invite us to a deeper understanding of the meaning of a "substantial gift". A "substantial gift" is a gift that comes from the very substance of who we are. All three readings speak of such a gift and challenge us to this kind of generosity.

A substantial gift is a gift that is given with faith and trust. We believe that, even though we don't seem to have enough, if we are generous God will provide all that we need. The Book of Kings describes a widow who gave such a gift and was blessed by God because of her generosity.

A substantial gift is a gift that it hurts to give and is therefore sacrificial. The Letter to the Hebrews describes how Christ gave such a gift when he gave himself for our salvation. He was willing to suffer and die for us and, therefore, his gift was powerful enough to take away the sins of many.

A substantial gift is a gift that is not given from our "leftovers", but from the "first fruits" of what we have. The Gospel of Mark describes the poor widow who gave all that she had, and not from any excess that she had. She was not giving in order to get rid of something that she really didn't need, but was offering her best.

Generosity is a virtue that is at the heart of Christianity. It may involve giving material resources or it may require giving our time or talent in particular areas. In any case, we are invited today to consider how we make those gifts. Do we do so with faith and trust? Do we give even when it hurts? Are we only giving God our leftovers? God reminds us that a "substantial gift" doesn't have to involve a lot of money. But it should involve a lot of love!

We are grateful to all those who give to our Church even when it is challenging. On this Veteran's Day weekend, we are also grateful to those who serve and who have served our country, even to the point of offering the ultimate sacrifice of their lives.