

**September 29-30, 2007**  
**Twenty-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
**Amos 6:1-7                      First Timothy 6:11-16                      Luke 16:19-31**

So the recently deceased Leona Helmsley (may she rest in peace) left 12 million dollars to her dog 'Troubles'?! Is there a dog-whisperer amongst us who could make contact with 'Troubles' to see if the grieving dog would like to become a Registered (and tithing) member of Corpus Christi? As we enter the Autumn season, a time traditionally marked with delicious feasts and elaborate holidays, this weekend's First Reading from Amos and the Gospel of Luke are jarring in their call to social responsibility. Living as we do in our capitalistic system, there is an extremely strong (and seductive) message, which says: 'what is mine...is mine'. This sort of message implies that one is completely free to do with their possessions/wealth whatever they want, with no need for any larger social concerns whatsoever. Side by side with this message is the Gospel understanding that with great blessings come great responsibilities, that those who have been richly blessed (with money, intelligence, ability) have been given these gifts in trust to benefit the entire citizenry. Acknowledging that the Gospel also calls us to be wise stewards of our possessions/wealth, there is no implication that we impoverish ourselves under some false sense of helping people...then we just become 'part of the problem.' Nonetheless, this weekend encourages us to consider our personal 'investment' of what we possess toward the betterment of the larger society of which we are a part. Simply contrasting the ease with which we go to a movie, purchase a new electronic game, pay a cell-phone bill, or dine out as compared with our discomfort with Church-associated costs, with our requested support of the PTA and other 'non-profits'...what does this say about our perception of our resources. As people of faith we have a long and powerful history of being called to generosity. Indeed, 'the measure you measure with, will be measured back to you' is a siren call to generosity not just in money, but in spirit as well. Leona's dog may have 12 million...but did her legacy do anything to change our perception of her. And perhaps this is the message within these Scripture passages...what we do with our possessions/wealth speaks loudly and truthfully about who we truly are ON THE INSIDE, regardless of how we try to pretend on the outside.

Thank you for joining with our Corpus Christi Community on this final weekend of September. As we head into October please take a Bulletin home with you for news of upcoming seasonal events, especially our annual 'Oak Glen Mass and Hoe-Down' at Los Rios Orchards. Reservation forms are available on the Concierge Shelves. Please take note of the upcoming WOMEN of FAITH – LEADERSHIP DINNER on Tuesday, October 16<sup>th</sup>, again, reservation forms are on the Concierge Shelves. Fully immersed in Autumn, look out for falling leaves and remember...you are loved. FKB