

Dear Friends,

“Dearest Brothers and sisters:
All good giving and every perfect gift
is from above,
coming down from the Father of lights,
With whom there is no alteration
or shadow caused by change.
He willed to give us birth by the word of truth that
we may be a kind of first fruits of his creatures.”
[James 1.17-18]

James in his letter quoted above is dealing with divisions within the community. In the parlance of the last several months it might be conceptualized as the 1% and the 99% or the haves and have-nots. He uses his letter to refocus priorities and encourage the community to a genuine level of sharing among those in need.

One never finds out how effective James was but what is of consolation is the fact of how the problem endures. Let me be quick to say it is faint consolation for if only there were no need in our lives. For all to be helped in a generous and compassionate way is a goal of the gospel, at least while on this earth.

James places all generosity and gift at source, God. We must continue to remember this for in the memory is our salvation. Saint Catherine of Siena writes – *Always keep your eyes on God. Let everything you do be directed toward God. Let each of you try to grow from strength to strength, never turning back to look at the world but keeping your heart constantly fixed on the thought of how short our time is. Ponder the price at which you have been so tenderly ransomed and the reward given to those who clothe themselves in virtue. In this way you will...grow more and more in holy desire. Then at the end of your life you will...come, bound in love and in charity, to that perfect union and vision of peace where there is joy and happiness completely free of sadness or bitterness.*

What a gift this shall be!

Sincerely,
Father Beaudin