

St. Robert Bellarmine (1542-1621) is an Italian cardinal and theologian. One of the great saints of the Jesuit order, St. Robert has also been declared a Doctor of the Church and the patron of catechists.



First Reading: (1 Tim 6:2c-12) Teach and urge these duties. If any one teaches otherwise and does not agree with the sound words of our Lord Jesus Christ and the teaching which accords with godliness, he is puffed up with conceit, he knows nothing; he has a morbid craving for controversy and for disputes about words, which produce envy, dissension, slander, base suspicions, and wrangling among men who are depraved in mind and bereft of the truth, imagining that godliness is a means of gain. There is great gain in godliness with contentment; for we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world; but if we have food and clothing, with these we shall be content. But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation, into a snare, into many senseless and hurtful desires that plunge men into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is the root of all evils; it is through this craving that some have wandered away from the

faith and pierced their hearts with many pangs. But as for you, man of God, shun all this; aim at righteousness, godliness, faith, love, steadfastness, gentleness. Fight the good fight of the faith; take hold of the eternal life to which you were called when you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.

Ps 48:6-10, 17-20

R. / How happy are the poor in spirit; theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Gospel: (Lk 8:1-3) Jesus went on through cities and villages, preaching and bringing the good news of the kingdom of God. And the twelve were with him, and also some women who had been healed of evil spirits and infirmities: Mary, called Magdalene, from whom seven demons had gone out, and Joanna, the wife of Chuza, Herod's steward, and Susanna, and many others, who provided for them out of their means.

REFLECTION

Teamwork is a great secret of success. Jesus' team consisted mostly of weak and simple folks, who were totally dedicated to his cause. There, however, were also talented and influential women who accompanied Jesus. They worked together in unity which made a big difference. The gospel speaks about the helping band of the community around Jesus. There were many who helped Jesus during his preaching ministry. Often, we make a show of our work. Jesus, on the other hand, just helped wherever he could. Not everybody can be the centre of attraction. Mostly those who work behind the curtain do more; they have greater rewards in heaven. Many people who worked for Jesus did selfless service. Thus, they brought Jesus and his message to the public.

If you wish anything good to happen, start with yourself. **By helping, you never become poorer, but enrich the other. The moment you discover a purpose in your living, you will have found a method to achieve it.**