

This Week's Message
from Fr. Amesse
September 14, 2025



When I was recovering in the hospital, I made a promise not to get angry at the homeless people on the sidewalk. I have done pretty well at keeping that promise.

When I was visiting my brother up in Ottawa, there was a homeless lady outside his church. She looked ill. I bought her a sandwich and coffee. My brother reprimanded me! He said the homeless will expect the priests to do it and the homeless can become violent if they say no. I learned a lesson.

How can we temper our desire to help those in need with prudence? It is not easy. There was a lady on the sidewalk outside the Shrine and she asked me to give her a room for the night. I said I cannot do that. Then, when the 5:30 Mass ended she held up a sign asking for money for her grandchildren. I hope the people were not intimidated. When do we know how to help those less fortunate and when to show prudence?

Prudence is one of the cardinal virtues. Besides prudence, the other three cardinal virtues are justice, fortitude, and temperance. These are often referred to as the four cardinal virtues because all other virtues are seen as hinging on them:

Prudence: The ability to govern oneself by reason.

Justice: Giving to each person what is their due.

Fortitude: Courage in the face of adversity or fear.

Temperance: Moderation and restraint in actions and desires.

During this September, the month of Our Lady of Sorrows, we ask Mary to help us lead virtuous lives. It is not easy, but Our Lady will help us.

Hope does not disappoint! I remember you at Mass!