

A poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which are worth a penny.

—Mark 12:42

FRIDAY, MARCH 11

In June of 2015, Texas experienced Tropical Storm Bill, and the Diocese of Texas received emergency funds from Episcopal Relief & Development. A woman contacted the Diocese to request help, and I listened as she told me of evacuations. She opened her home to six people, unknown to her at the time, who needed temporary shelter. She told me that she was on a fixed income and needed financial help. I placed her on my daily prayer list.

When I called her to arrange a time to meet and give her a check, she said that she just couldn't accept the money. She said that she'd received a windfall – she didn't say from whom or how much – and that she was sure that others needed the money more than she did. This woman gave what she had to strangers: not money, but food, water and shelter.

I am reminded of the story of the poor widow who gave two small copper coins – everything that she had. Jesus tells his disciples that this widow has put in more than all the others.

Today, I invite you to pray for the faithful who give their all in time of need. Perhaps you know some by name.

—Russ Oechsel, Jr.