

Thoughts on the Daily Word:

24th Week of Year. Tuesday 19th September. Readings: 1 Timothy 3:1-13; Psalm: 100; Luke 7:11-17.

The story continues of community building. All the qualities of elder and deacon reflect the extended communities that underlay the culture of the time. Presbyter or elder was taken from the Jewish community while deacon was much more than servant. The deacon was somebody who was called and chosen for a particular role. It came with responsibility and honour. In that context service to the community was a serious commitment to assist the presbyters. It seems that at first there were groups of presbyters, as in the Jewish synagogues. It was only later and slowly that one became the overseer, or the bishop, episcopus. This commitment to the community is seen in the care of the widow in the gospel. A solitary widow, without support, was a desperate situation. One of the first things requested of the young Christian community was care of widow. We are being challenged to see just how we look after the community in our day.