

OT XXX111 YEAR A

Next week is the last Sunday in ordinary time, as we will celebrate the feast of Christ the King and then into Advent as we prepare for Christmas.

Today, as we always should, we direct our attention more so to others than ourselves, namely the Archbishop's appeal for life link, introduced last week but today the video is a little more specific as to the agencies it supports.

The main theme of all three readings today is an invitation to live in such a way that we make best use of the talents God has given us.

The first reading suggests that we should be as diligent and industrious as a loyal and faithful wife in the use of our God-given gifts.

In the second reading Paul's message is to keep awake and be sober, encouraging and building each other up as we wait for the day of the Lord. He challenges the Thessalonians, and therefore us as well, to turn fear of the Lord (That is respect) into positive, constructive, and life affirming action.

The gospel parable reminds us that we all have gifts, talents and treasure, all given to us by God.

What are these gifts and talents, well they are basically everything we use each day. Some of us have musical talents, others physical talents, that assist our sporting achievements, organizational skills, skills and talents used in our careers in teaching and medicine and so many other areas.

And then there is our treasure, those of us who have been blessed with wealth in varying degrees are called upon to share with others in need. Like our response to the Archbishops appeal for life link today.

I must say that the generosity of this parish is without question, outstanding. Our Rangala collection for instance which, over 10 years, has collected over \$200,000 for the abandoned babies in Kenya, and the wonderful response to Project compassion are great examples of this. But then, on an individual basis, let's ask ourselves, are we truly responding to God's call to assist those in need ?

The gospel story today spells it out, does it not. Jesus is reminding us of our stewardship role with the gifts and talents given to us. If we are burying them for our own exclusive use, afraid to risk extending love to others, we are not doing Gods work.

How many of us have talents that we could offer the parish in its role in building up the body of Christ, but hold back for one reason or another.

Where do we go from here?

Think about our response to the Archbishop's appeal today.

Also consider the talents that we are custodians of, there are many areas of parish life where we can offer our services, we should consider them in relation to the abilities we have and come forward.

Remember, just like the stewards in today's gospel, we will all be judged in terms of how we have utilized the gifts, talents and treasure God has placed in our care. When the time comes, will we hear those words.

“Well done, good and faithful servant”

Or

“you wicked and lazy servant”

The choice is ours.

St Mary of the cross had a motto.

“Never see a need without doing something about it”

Why not make it ours as well.