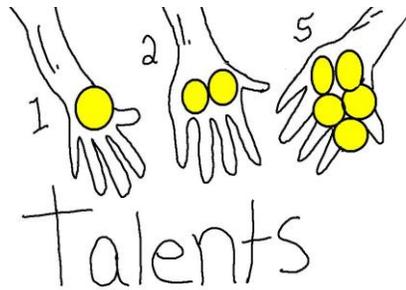


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Christ Our Hope Catholic Church

Faith In Laity Corner



Monday, November 20, 2017

33rd Sunday Ordinary Times

Readings: Prv. 31: 10-13, 19-20, 31-32; Mt. 25:14-13, 19-20

Hiding Talents?

As we are in the penultimate week before the new Church liturgical year, we reflect on the second coming of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Much has been said, predicted, foretold and speculated on this upcoming event. Yet, all will be wrong according to the word of Jesus who said something like this, 'When that is to happen no one will know the day nor the hour, not even the angels.' Jesus is even in the dark on this one... So for all the *prediction specialist, soothsayers, naysayers, star gazing experts, end of time waiters*.... NO ONE KNOWS!! Yet, we have been given some clear instructions on what we need to be doing until that time comes. Now, that is the essence of our Catholic message... what are we doing to prepare for the inevitable? Whether we die first or Jesus comes again, that we can rest assured; but what are we doing in the mean time?

Week 33 of ordinal times explains what TO do.....The first reading from the book of Proverbs (*still don't know why more folks don't read this book*), points to the actions of industrious women. When we read the verses, it points to the 'woman' of the house as the standard bearer for her household. A profitable asset for her husband; as

"She brings him profit, not loss,

all the days of her life." (Pv. 31:12)

Even in Biblical times the role of the woman has never been seen lightly or her role minimized, rather it is clear and given great prominence.

"She rises while it is still night,

and distributes food to her household." (Pv.31:15)

OT 33/267/Talent

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The steadfast duty and business acumen of the woman is touted clearly in this *‘Biblical advice column’*, let us say it is ironic today, as women and their status and respect by their powerful male counterparts are being degraded, run over, disregarded, bashed and her voice is ignored over the money and power of those in our society.

*“Who can find a woman of worth?
Far beyond jewels is her value.” (Pv. 31:10)*

One thing far too many people forget, is that God-is all knowing and all seeing. For many women who

*“She reaches out her hands to the poor,
and extends her arms to the needy.” (Pv.31:20)*

You are to continue in that effort and be clear that God judgement is not that of men.

In the Gospel we are faced with the fact that of each of us are given gifts from God, freely given... with the expectation that we will use it for His glory and help those around you.

*“To one he gave five talents; to another, two;
to a third, one—to each according to his ability.” (Mt. 25:15)*

Note that God gave each of us talents according to our ability and capability. (*Just what we can handle*). It never fails to amaze me, when I ask an adult what is their talent or special gift that God gave them, they would too often reply... *‘I don’t know’*. Well, when are you going to find out? Most people tend to ask, *‘how will I know.’* My response is always... *‘did you ask God?’* If you don’t ask God who gave you the gift then, how can you know. My question is – *‘Do you want to know?’*

*“The one who received five talents went and traded with them,
and made another five.” (Mt. 25:16)*

Everyone has been given some type of talent, so we can trade and use to bring more earnings and ‘souls’ for God.

‘Master, you gave me two talents. See, I have made two more.’ (Mt. 25:22)

There are ample opportunities for us to find out what are our talents, as we need to use these for the needs of others.

“For to everyone who has, more will be given....” (Mt.25:)

God will hold us accountable for the talent He has bestowed on all of us..... Don’t waste your talents that God richly bestowed on you! Find your talent and use it for others.

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Let us pray for those of many poor countries whose citizens are being sold into slavery by the hundreds, in our modern times. We have to continue to pray for our country and the laws which are being introduced into our country; let us not move from being a great nation to a diminishing nation.

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Faith in Laity Corner is a weekly review of Sunday's readings written by
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Available now on the Parish App. and webpage

<http://www.christourhopeatl.org/becoming-a-catholic/christ-our-hope-catholic-church-weekly-reflections.php>

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