

***The Thirty-third Sunday of Ordinary Time
Homily ~ November 13, 2011***

***Rev. Andrew A. Czajkowski
The Catholic Community of
St. John the Evangelist &
Blessed Sacrament***

A man came home from work one night and there at the door with open arms was his wife. She says, “Do you know what day it is?” He said, “Of course, I do. This is our 25th wedding anniversary.”

She said, “Did you buy me a present?”

He said, “Yes, I did.”

“What it is?”

He said, “Well, something that took a lot of thought, something that is quite useful, and something I think you’ll like.”

“Well, what could it be?”

He said, “Well, I bought you a marble crypt at St. John Mausoleum in Davison. The chapel is beautiful—so well cared for. And I feel you deserve the best place money could buy.” Well the wife agreed that the present was very appropriate.

One year later, they were sitting at the breakfast table having a morning cup of coffee. “Do you know what today is?”

He said, “Of course I do. This is our 26th wedding anniversary.”

“Did you buy me a gift?”

He said, “Buy you a gift? You didn’t use the one I bought you last year.”

In today’s Gospel, we heard a story about three servants who were entrusted with another person’s gifts. Two were faithful and productive. Another was foolish and not productive at all. The great poet Robert Frost once said, “The world is full of willing people, some willing to work, the rest willing to let them.” The Church is full of those same kinds of people.

Nonetheless, Jesus is reminding us that every servant has both a job to do and the ability to do that job. Every servant’s job is important.

Every single one of us are called to be a servant in doing something for God and a steward in being faithful using the gift God has given to us. It is not how much you have that matters to God, it is what you do with what you have that matters to him. God is not concerned whether you have great ability or little ability. God is not concerned whether you have great talent or small talent. It’s what you do with the talent that you have that matters to God.

Every single member in the Body of Christ has a God-given ability as well as gifts that might do something productive for the Master. Lest we assume it doesn't matter what we do or what we don't do, Jesus tells us about the unfaithful servant—the man who buried his talent, who didn't even put it in the bank, didn't even try to draw any interest. You say, "How foolish."

May I tell you that the Church is full of buried talent. I'm looking right now at buried talents of singing, buried talents of teaching, buried talents of serving all over this campus. How many here have talents that have been given by God, intended to be used for the Master, but are buried under "I'm too busy"? There is no excuse for doing nothing for God's house, for God's kingdom, for God's work. No matter how much we try to come up with an excuse, the Master is not going to buy it.

And so we learn the hard lesson of this parable: What we do now reaps an eternal reward later. What we don't do for God now is lost forever.

There is a cave in Kentucky called Mammoth Cave. You go down into the cave and it's absolutely pitch black; it is totally dark. There is a river that runs through the cave called the Echo River, and in that river there are fish that have no eye sockets. Scientists have figured out the reason they don't have any eye sockets is because they never use their eyes. So through the years, as these fish have bred, they have bred without eye sockets because the eyes were never used. What we don't use, we lose!

How do you think God feels when he invests in our gifts and abilities straight from his hand and we fail to use them for his glory?

Jesus stands before us today and says to everyone who has ears to hear that it is time to go to work. So ask not what your Church can do for you—ask what you can do for your Church.

St. John the Evangelist

≈140th Jubilee ≈

1871  2011