33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time, November 15, 2026

Proverbs 31:10-13,19-20,30-31 - Extols the virtues of a good wife.

1 Thessalonians 5:1-6 – St. Paul asks us to stay alert, for the day of the Lord cannot be predicted.

Matthew 25:14-30 - This parable is about using the gifts God has given us to serve.

A master entrusted his wealth to three servants. He gives one five talents, another two, and the third one - each according to his ability. Notice something, the wealth was not equally distributed! Wait a minute, this sounds unfair. Why! Where is the master's sense of justice?

But What is a Talent at the time of Jesus in the NT?

In the New Testament a talent (talanton in Greek) is a large unit of weight and monetary value. Unit of talent weighs roughly 80 pounds, it became a high-value currency denomination used for gold or silver. While impossible to determine an exact value of one talent, Biblical scholars believe **that it was worth about 6,000 drachmas, which equaled roughly 15 to 20 years of wages for an ordinary daily laborer.** Depending on the metal (silver/gold) and economic calculations, a single talent in modern value, is estimated to be **worth anywhere from $400,000 to over $1 million USD today.**

This analysis shows that each of the servants in today's passage – including the one who received just one talent – *received a massive sum of wealth from the master.* The first two servants double their talents. Although one earns five and the other only two, both receive exactly the same praise: "Well done, good and faithful servant." The third servant simply buried his talent. When questioned, he gives one explanation: "I was afraid." His fear prevented him from putting his master's gift to work.

And here is the deeper problem: He was so concerned about protecting what he had received that he forgot why it had been entrusted to him. The third servant was not terribly bad mind you, but there is something he did not get quite right - lack of appreciation for the talent/big wealth/treasure he received. And that is where **STEWARDSHIP comes in.**

Stewardship begins with recognizing that everything we have is a gift from God - and every gift comes with a responsibility. Our time, talents, treasures, opportunities, and financial resources are not simply possessions to enjoy or protect. They are gifts entrusted to us to accomplish God's purposes.

The master did not distribute his wealth equally to everyone, nor did does he expect equal amount of results from everyone. Each person is already massively blessed in many ways. God is never stingy. He expects each person to be faithful with what he/she has received. God does not ask us to give what we do not have. God asks us to be faithful with what we do have.

Fr. Martin's Homily – 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time – November 15, 2026

The question is not, “How much do I have compared to someone else?”

The question is, “What am I doing with what God has entrusted to me?”

But sometimes fear, selfishness, envy, insecurity, excuses, lack of commitment, or jealousy get in the way and we begin to compare ourselves with others instead of developing what God has given us. We worry that if we give our time, we will have less for ourselves. If we share our resources, we might not have enough. If we offer our abilities, we might fail.

This is stewardship weekend here at St Pius X. In a few seconds, one of our Finance Counce members – Patsy Guenthner – will be speaking to us about stewardship, money-talk. Please let us give Patsy great attention.

Fear asks the question, “What if I lose what I have?” while Faith asks the question, “What does God want me to do with what He has given me?” As apprentices and disciples of Jesus, we are learning to live as Christ lived - not holding back our gifts, but using them in love and service. So here is a question to take home this week: What gifts from God am I still keeping safely buried when God is asking me to put it to work? The master praised the servants not simply because they produced more, but because they were faithful with what they have received from God. God is not asking all of us to produce the same harvest. He is asking each of us to plant the seeds we have been given.

Thank you, and remain blessed. Amen.

- Fr. Martin Ezeihuaku, MSP