

Thirty-Third Sunday in the Ordinary Time

Once again, we hear the theme repeated of being prepared for the Lord's return. We know not the hour nor the day but are sure it will come when we least expect it. This is the message of St. Paul's as he writes to the Thessalonians. Because they have accepted Christ and are now called; Children of the Light they need not fear the coming of the Lord but instead prepare themselves by holiness of life and loving service of the others.

We turn back to the Old Testament to read from the Book of Proverbs and find a description of the "worthy wife" and the husband who entrusts his heart to her. In these verses is presented a model for holiness of life that can be exhibited in marriage. Holiness is possible in the state of life in which we find ourselves. To pursue our life's mission with excellence and fear of the Lord. This wife spoken of in the Scriptures receives the reward of all her labors and is seen at the gates of the city to be praised.

In the 25th chapter of Matthew's Gospel, we are offered by Jesus another parable. In this story the Master leaves his servants with a portion of his wealth. Each is given a different amount and are free to invest in order to bring about a return. When the Master comes back and asks an account of his wealth, he finds that two of the servants took what they were given and produced from it a measure of profit. The third did not. The measure given him was not invested to grow but buried and returned with no yield.

The message of this parable clearly points to the gifts that God gives each of us. All different yet able to be used and grown to do good. Like these servants, we are called to recognize God's gifts in us and to allow them to bear fruit by our cooperation in His divine plan.

Peace,

Fr. Robert

