

Celebrating Stewardship Sunday November 12/13, 2016

Homily Helps

Stewardship Weekend Homily Ideas
November 12/13, 2016
Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Mal 3:19-20A
Ps 98:5-6, 7-8, 9
2 Thes 3:7-12
Lk 21:5-19

(Download readings at usccb.org/111316.cfm)

Note: if your parish is doing an annual recommitment/renewal this weekend, please tailor your comments to fit the components (gratitude, prayer, service, sharing) you will be highlighting.

As we encounter stewardship weekend each year, the readings are apocalyptic in nature. The scriptures for the Thirty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time vividly describe the end times without mincing many words. Yet, there are two lines that guide and encourage us as disciples of Jesus during this celebration of Stewardship Weekend.

The first comes from Paul in his letter to the Thessalonians. It states: *Brothers and sisters: You know how one must imitate us. For we did not act in a disorderly way among you, nor did we eat food received free from anyone.* Paul describes what it means to be disorderly as far as not pulling your weight and earning your keep. It was a very basic rule for then and for now.

But what does it mean for you and me to live an “orderly or disorderly” life as a baptized member of our Church in light of what Jesus modeled for us? As professed friends and followers of Jesus, what standards are we held to? To truly *Live Discipleship* we are called to a grateful life of generosity by taking time for faith-filled prayer, using our talents in compassionate service and sharing abundantly from our treasure. This is the ordered life of a follower of Jesus and Christian steward. Each of us needs to assess ourselves. Are we disorderly or orderly in the eyes of Jesus. Are we on a journey and somewhere in the middle?

The second line that encourages us as disciples of Jesus, we find at the end of Luke’s Gospel when he states: *By your perseverance you will secure your lives.* Living as Christian stewards in a culture that fosters individualism, consumerism, etc. is not an easy task. We can often be distracted and have to struggle to keep our generous spirit as our time and talents are pulled in many directions.

Jesus encourages us to endure and persevere because just like the Master in the *Parable of the Talents*, God will return. For those who lived their discipleship in an enduring and “ordered” way, the reward will be great.

