

St John the Evangelist Roman Catholic Congregation

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Giving the Gift of Treasure

October 2009

Dearly beloved in Christ,

On the weekend of October 10 and 11, the 28th Sunday of Ordinary Time and our Stewardship Sunday, we will hear in the proclamation of the Gospel these words, “*‘Good teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?’... Jesus, looking at him, loved him and said to him, ‘You are lacking one thing. Go, sell what you have and give to the poor and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me.’ At that statement his face fell, and he went away sad, for he had many possessions.*”

We are all owners of something. What is it that Jesus has against possessions? I think what he is against is the sadness that a possession focused life brings, the suffocation caused to a giving spirit by an owning spirit, the joylessness of living with a small god, and how our basic insecurity can blind us to his revelation of the goodness of God the Father who freely gives us eternal life. An allegiance to a style of life that wants to own and accumulate, if transferred to the spiritual realm, makes of that realm a wasteland. If we feel we have to pile up things, even good deeds, to prove that we have faithfully earned eternal life then we’ve missed what the teaching of Jesus, the poverty of the Cross, and freedom of resurrected life relentlessly require of us. That requirement is to live abundantly in awe of the infinite goodness of the living God. If the ways of Jesus, the good Teacher, work and our consciousness stays focused on God, then what becomes clear is that dispossession on all levels is the way to the fullness of life. It is how we become receptive to the self giving Spirit of the living God.

This Gospel offers a wonderful paradigm for stewardship. Stewardship is, “what I do with what I own if I believe in God”. If I own it, God owns it. So, then, how do I treat it? What do I do with it? How does it get used to make ready the way of the Lord?

Please pay close attention to the enclosed materials. Of mounting importance is the method of Electronic Transfer. It has been a gift of great benefit to our parish. If you have passed it up before please give it renewed attention.

Know of my ongoing prayer that the spirit of dispossession will lead you to know that you possess all things.

Sincerely,



Rev. Msgr. Richard H. Tillman