

Homily, 25<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C

The story is told about an elderly husband who told his wife: “Get me ice cream from the refrigerator, please.” And he warned her not to be forgetful. True enough, the wife came back bringing him a hot dog instead. Whereupon the husband said: “See, I told you. You are really forgetful already! You forgot the catsup!”

In today’s Gospel (Lk. 16, 1-13) Jesus reminds us that whoever is dishonest in small matters is also dishonest in great ones. He also reminds us that the standards of this world are not the same as God’s standards: The dishonest steward was wise and prudent in the world’s eyes, but still he was dishonest in God’s eyes. In other words, one can get away with dishonesty in this life, and he who does so may even be considered prudent or wise; but more than worldly wisdom, God sees a person’s purity of heart.

I came across the story of an American Catholic who combines his work and money concerns with gospel values. His name is Charlie De Leo.

He served in the Vietnam war and after returning home, he got a job as maintenance man at the Statue of Liberty.

**Part of his job is to take care of the torch in the statue's hand and the crown on the statue's head. He has to make sure that the sodium vapor lights are always working.**

**But apart from his work, Charlie does other things for the Lord. He received a recommendation from the Red Cross after donating his 65th pint of blood.**

**And since hearing of the work of the late Mother Theresa in India, he had given over \$12,000 to her and to people like her.**

**In an interview, he told reporters, "I don't socialize much, don't have fancy clothes, but I have fun. I don't keep any of my money. After I got my job, I sponsored six orphans through those children's organizations."**

**Charlie De Leo is a living example of what Jesus is saying in the gospel. He works for a living, for money, but he knows how to share it with those who have less in life.**

**Our Lord expects us to be resourceful money makers, but He also expects us to be honest and to **SHARE** our resources with the poor, keeping an eye on the eternal security which God alone can offer. In today's Gospel, Jesus reminds us that we are all mere stewards of our earthly possessions. As we journey on, how many of us have forgotten that we are accountable for these possessions, including our**

**talents and our very lives, to God? Please remember that our lives, and everything and everyone in our lives, are just lent to us.**

**There is no such thing as being the sole and permanent owner. The problem with some people is that they forget that life is all about stewardship. When greed sets in, the hoarding begins and the sharing ends. When greed sets in, worries and fears abound, and faith and trust are set aside. Greed makes our vision narrow, and our mission shallow.**

**Once I visited a patient in a hospital who was not only sick but who also had anxiety attacks about money and money matters in the future. He is someone who has always been in control of everything and of everyone, and now he is helpless and “worthless,” he said. I suppose all of us will experience this sooner or later, but if we have faith, we know that help comes from the Lord, and that our worth comes not from our worldly possessions and achievements. Our true worth is not what we have, but who we are before God.**