



**Do nothing out of selfishness or out of
vainglory; rather, humbly regard others
as more important than yourselves.**

PHILIPPIANS 2:3–4



Will You Work in God's Vineyard?

ANN M. GARRIDO

Most parents can resonate with today's gospel. Who hasn't had a child promise to do their chores and then neglect to do them? Or a child who threw a fit when asked to help but then pitched in after all?

Jesus' parables intend to give clues about a mystery he called the kingdom of God—a revelation about what the world will look like when God's dreams for it are realized. We get a good hint that this parable is meant to be about the kingdom of God because it speaks of a vineyard, and Jesus often compared God's kingdom to a vineyard. Vineyards throughout the ancient world were associated with joy and abundance, but they also required much tending. They needed workers, and that is what God has called us to be for the kingdom.

Jesus observed that those who professed to support God's coming kingdom often seemed to do little to help bring it about whereas those who historically had been viewed as resistant to God's ways were more receptive to John the Baptist's preaching—and, we can imagine, Jesus' message as well. They were the ones who proved in the end more willing to lend a hand.

The vineyard of which Jesus spoke still requires workers. It still requires people willing to collaborate with God in gathering the abundant harvest that will mark a season of great joy. We can imagine that, like any parent, God's greatest delight would be to have children who say "yes" and then follow through on their word! ●



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Reflect

When I am tempted to be resentful, what would be a healthy response?

Dear Padre,

Why must I choose practicing Catholics as my baby's godparents?

The Church is clear about the qualifications of godparents: at least sixteen years old; leading lives of faith; confirmed and having already received Communion, among others.

(See the *Code of Canon Law*, 872–874.) “Godparent” isn’t simply an honorary title we bestow on someone.

It’s an important role in a child’s faith life. Parents and godparents introduce us to Jesus and teach us to pray. We talk to Jesus on our own and learn more about him through Scripture. Our parents take us to church. We watch their example and that of our godparents. It is the gradual process of being introduced to Jesus by those who know him that leads us to trust him and have faith in him. At baptism, a godparent lights a candle from the Easter candle and holds it for the child as the presider says, “Receive the light of Christ.” That is how faith comes to us: a gift from God, but through other people. Parents and godparents must have the bright flame of faith in their own hearts if they hope to pass it to the child.

It is permitted to have only one godparent, fulfilling the requirements previously mentioned, and a special “witness” who is a person of faith but is not Catholic. ●

Fr. Gary Lauenstein, CSsR / DearPadre.org

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
September 28	September 29	September 30	October 1	October 2	October 3	October 4
Weekday	Sts. Michael, Gabriel, and Raphael, Archangels	St. Jerome, Priest and Doctor of the Church	St. Thérèse of the Child Jesus, Virgin and Doctor of the Church	The Holy Guardian Angels	Weekday	Twenty-seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time
Jb 1:6–22	Dn 7:9–10, 13–14 or Rv 12:7–12ab	Jb 9:1–12, 14–16	Jb 19:21–27	Jb 38:1, 12–21; 40:3–5	Jb 42:1–3, 5–6, 12–17	Is 5:1–7
Lk 9:46–50	Jn 1:47–51	Lk 9:57–62	Lk 10:1–12	Mt 18:1–5, 10	Lk 10:17–24	Phil 4:6–9
						Mt 21:33–43



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A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV

Jesus taught us that in discerning how to help our neighbor, we must imitate the example of the Good Samaritan, who selflessly gave of his time and resources to someone whom he had never previously met.... When we help those in need, especially those who cannot repay us, we become the Lord’s instruments.

MESSAGE TO FADICA NETWORK, ROME, FEBRUARY 27, 2026

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