

Father Anthony's Reflection and Prayer

25TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR A Isaiah 55:6-9; Philippians 1:20c-24, 27a; Matthew 20:1-16

In the Gospel, Jesus tells of workers hired at different hours of the day, yet all receiving the same wage. Those who worked from the morning complain because they feel that the master has been unfair. But the master has not cheated them; he has given them exactly what he promised. Their difficulty is not injustice, but envy.

This parable teaches us that God's grace is not a salary earned by human effort. It is a gift flowing from his goodness. God is generous to the person who has served him faithfully for many years, and equally generous to the person who turns to him sincerely at the last moment.

How often do we compare ourselves with others: their opportunities, gifts, jobs, marriages, children, success or recognition? Comparison can quietly steal our joy and make us resent the blessings of others. Instead of saying, "Why has God been good to them?" we should thank God for his goodness and ask how we may use what he has given us.

The parable also challenges those who have come late to the vineyard. It is never too late to return to God, to begin again, to forgive, to pray, to seek Confession, or to serve the Church. But we should not delay our conversion. The master continues to call workers throughout the day, and he calls each of us now.

God's ways are higher than our ways. Let us rejoice in his generosity, work faithfully in his vineyard, and be grateful for the grace we have received.

Fr. Anthony Onoko, Pastor

PRAYER FOR THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER

Heavenly Father, as we enter the month of September, we come before you with faith and confidence, placing all our needs and the needs of our brothers and sisters into your loving hands. Your Word assures us, "Do not be afraid, for I am with you; do not be alarmed, for I am your God" (Isaiah 41:10).

Lord, remember all who are sick and suffering. We pray especially for those battling cancer, diabetes, heart problems and other serious or long-term illnesses. As your Word says, "Heal me, Lord, and I shall be healed" (Jeremiah 17:14). Strengthen them in moments of weakness, comfort them in their pain, bless their treatments and guide the doctors, nurses and families who care for them.

We pray also for all who are looking for employment. Open doors of opportunity for them, especially those who have experienced repeated disappointment. Provide for families struggling financially and bless the work of their hands, for "my God will fulfil all your needs" (Philippians 4:19).

May this month of September bring healing to the sick, employment to jobseekers, hope to the discouraged, peace to troubled hearts and abundant blessings upon our families. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Fr. Anthony, Pastor

WISDOM NUGGET

The beautiful thing about life is that you can always grow, change and get better. You aren't defined by your past. Some of the greatest rewards you will ever achieve comes from what no one else is doing. Keep doing the good work that sets you apart. Balance brings clarity as it helps you to see what matters.

All the hard good work you are putting in now will be worth it. The road maybe tough but the destination worth it. Have faith in God with your good works. The Lord lifts.

Fr. Anthony Onoko, Pastor

Lord, please remember the sick of our parish and community:

Bernadette Dayner, Laurel Wachinski
George L. Cowan, Dolores Petrisin
Fr. Ronald Simboli, Margaret Flint
Gerald Saxson

Lord, give them strength in body, courage in spirit, and patience in pain. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.