



As we come to our church this weekend we celebrate 28th Sunday in Ordinary Time. The Gospel presents us with a paradox: we lose what we keep, and we gain what we give away. When we lose our lives for Jesus Christ, we gain a priceless treasure and an inheritance which lasts forever. Whatever we give to God comes back a hundredfold. Generosity flows from a heart full of gratitude for the abundant mercy and grace which God grants. And generosity will be fully repaid, both in this life and in the life to come.

Why does Jesus tell his disciples to “sell all” for the treasure of his kingdom? Treasure has a special connection to the heart, the place of desire and longing, the place of will and focus. The thing we most set our heart on is our highest treasure. The Lord himself is the greatest treasure we can have. Giving up everything else to have the Lord as our treasure is not sorrowful, but the greatest joy. Selling all that we have could mean many different things - letting go of attachments, friendships, influences, jobs, entertainments, styles of life - really anything that might stand in the way of our loving God first and foremost in our lives and giving him the best we can with our time, resources, gifts, and service.

Jesus said to him,
“If you would be perfect, go, sell
what you possess and give to the
poor, and you will have treasure in
heaven; and come, follow me.”

Matthew 19:21 ESV

Those who are generous towards God and towards their neighbor find that they cannot outmatch God in his generosity towards us. God blesses us with the priceless treasures of his kingdom - freedom from fear and the gripping power of sin, selfishness and pride which block his love and grace in our lives. Freedom from loneliness, isolation and rejection which keep his children from living together in love, peace, and unity. And freedom from hopelessness, despair, and disillusionment which blind our vision of God’s power to heal every hurt, bind every wound, and remove

every blemish which mar the image of God within us. God offers us treasure which money cannot buy. He alone can truly satisfy the deepest longing and desires of our heart. Are we willing to part with anything that might keep us from seeking true joy with Jesus?

As your pastor I encourage you to participate in this year Diocesan Ministries Appeal. Many people who are less fortunate than we are waiting for our help, and by helping others we also help our own parish. Half of the amount received over our parish goal will be returned to our parish for our own needs. Not only does the Appeal support many worthwhile ministries throughout the diocese, it will also help our own parish if we reach and go over our goal. EACH YEAR YOU ARE VERY GENEROUS TO BISHOP’S ANNUAL APPEAL. PLEASE IF YOU CAN DO THE SAME THIS YEAR. THANK YOU!!! Last year \$25,924.00 came back to our parish.

THANK YOU DEACON TOM AND BOB FOR EVERYTHING YOU HAVE DONE FOR OLM AND ST. MARK’S FOR THE LAST 20 YEARS.

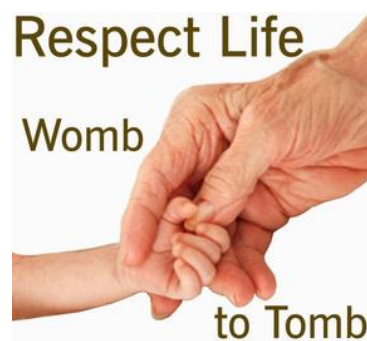
From Deacon Tom: The Gibbons family moved to Long Valley in 1969. After a long period as parishioner, as an Usher, Eucharistic Minister and Lector. I approached Fr. George Dudak and asked him to sponsor me for the Diaconate in 1995. I was ordained with my good friend, Bob Head, on May 1, 1999. I fondly remember the many Baptisms, especially those of my own grandchildren. Some of the highlights of my diaconate career were the marriage of an RCIA candidate in Sardinia, Italy, assisting at a Mass in St. Peter's in Rome, and serving with my fellow deacons.

From Deacon Bob: As for myself. Deacon Bob, I have been a parishioner for 46 years. My parish involvement began when my children started High School and I decided to teach in the High School C.C.D. program. Being a banker, I later assisted with financial record keeping. Also, I was a long time member of the Scholarship Committee and the Hospital & Homebound Ministries. After 4 years of study, was ordained a Deacon for the Paterson Diocese. I have assisted our parish Priests and Parishioners in this capacity in many, varied ways for the last 22 years.



St. Mark the Evangelist Parish (59 Spring Lane, Long Valley, NJ) presents a teaching and exposition of Sacred Relics on Thursday October 14 at 6:30 pm.

Father Carlos Martins of the Companions of the Cross will be here with an extraordinary Vatican collection of over 150 relics, some as old as 2000 years. Among the treasures will be relics of St. Joseph, St. Maria Goretti, St. Therese of Lisieux (the "Little Flower"), St. Francis of Assisi, St. Anthony of Padua, St. Thomas Aquinas, and St. Faustina Kowalska. There will also be a portion of the Veil of Our Lady and one of the largest remaining pieces of the True Cross in the world. Those in attendance will be able to examine and venerate each relic. Throughout history, many healings have been worked in the presence of relics; and thousands have occurred through this ministry. Do not miss this opportunity. You are encouraged to bring your articles of devotion (such as rosaries, holy cards, etc.) and pictures of ill friends/family members, which you will be able to touch to the reliquaries as a means of intercession. For most, this will be a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. Please spread the word.



Every person is made in God's image and likeness, and is loved by Him and called to eternal union with Him. We are also created to be in communion with and depend upon, one another. We are all called to walk in God's ways and treat each other according to the truth of His perfect love for every person. We are cherished, chosen, and sent by God to love one another as He loves us. In doing so, we help build a culture that cherishes all human life. Building a culture of life is simply part of who we are as Christians, as followers of Christ.

We have to pray for Culture of life in our Country. Our modern society is danger by the culture of death. Crime of Abortion, euthanasia, violence, war, the death penalty. As adopted daughters and sons of God, we ask for God's mercy to stop the abuse of life.

Those who are capable of sins against human life such as abortion, assisted suicide and euthanasia, they are not beyond Christ's mercy. It is important for us to know and share with others that Christ's forgiveness is offered even to those who have taken another person's life, if they are truly repentant of that act.

We must continue to show love and mercy, especially with those who have been involved in abortion. All members of the Church can bring healing to the world by upholding the beauty of human life and God's unfailing mercy.



"The Rosary is the most beautiful and the most rich in graces of all prayers." - Pope Saint Pius X

To help us reflect on the Rosary I will use ideas from Pope John Paul II's Letter on the Rosary, *Rosarium Virginis Mariae of 2002*. John Paul II said the Rosary is nothing other than contemplating Christ with the face of Mary and is among the finest and most praiseworthy traditions of Christian contemplation.

During the conclusion of his letter John Paul II encourages families to pray the Rosary together. The Pope said the Rosary is a prayer of and for the family. He wrote: "At one time this prayer was particularly dear to Christian families, and it certainly brought them closer together. It is important not to lose this precious inheritance. We need to return to the practice of family prayer and prayer for families, continuing to use the Rosary."

We simply need to have trust and to take up our weapon, the weapon of peace, the weapon with the greatest power. If we can come before Our Lord – in the Blessed Sacrament, especially – with Rosary in hand, all things will be ours.

2021 Diocesan Ministries Appeal – "LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE"

With the help of the Diocesan Ministries Appeal, our Catholic Charities programs provide a wide range of services for people who face extraordinary difficulties. These include: food pantries which have become especially vital during the pandemic, after-school mentoring and counseling programs for at-risk youth, Meals on Wheels for our senior population, group homes for adults with developmental disabilities, drug and alcohol treatment for those in need and outreach and assistance to veterans, just to name a few ministries. Your support of the Diocesan Ministries Appeal can be a spark that helps brighten the lives of so many people.

Please be as generous as possible to your brothers and sisters in great need! For your convenience, you can make an online gift or pledge at www.2021appeal.org
