



27th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR A – October 8, 2017

By decree of our new bishop, Bishop Alfred Schlert, the Feast of our Diocesan Patroness, Mary, Mother of the Church, is to be celebrated each year on the Second Sunday of October in every church of our diocese.

Please see the bulletin insert this work for the whole decree. The readings from sacred scripture shall remain the readings of the Sunday. They are: Isaiah 5:1-7, Philemon 4:6-9 and Matthew 21:33-43. With that in mind let me share these thoughts.

It is said that good teachers know how to tell good stories to get their point across. Jesus was a good teacher. He knew how to tell stories. His stories, as you know, are called parables. For all practical purposes, the parables of Jesus, for some writers, fall into two categories: window parables and mirror parables

A window parable is simply a story that enables us to look into the mind of God and not be blinded by the light. It is a verbal window that often begins with these words; "The kingdom of God is like..." Mirror parables are stories that act like verbal "mirrors". They give us an insight into ourselves...

Jesus constructed these parables in such a way that people in the parable represented people in his listening audience. They were able to see themselves as one or more of the characters in the story. Today's parable of the vineyard is a good example of a "mirror parable".

The vineyard owner is God. The vineyard is the people of Israel. The tenants are the leaders of Israel - the ruling class of that time. The first group of slaves is the early prophets of the Old Testament. The second group of slaves is the later prophets of the Old Testament. The owner's son is Jesus himself. The new tenant farmers are the Apostles. They are the new leaders of God's people.

The lesson of the parable is not just for the Scribes and Pharisees who lived 2000 years ago. The lesson is for all of us today. Each of us must give an account of our stewardship here on earth to God Himself.... and to no one else. Everything we have comes from God. We do not own any of it, just as the tenant farmers did not own the vineyard. Let me conclude with the lyrics of a song written by Richard Wilson:

*Jesus was the storytelling kind
He painted pictures in the mind
It's how he showed both you and me
The way things ought to be.*

*He used the sky
He used the sea
He used the birds
He used the tree*

*Jesus was the storytelling kind
He painted pictures in the mind
It's how he showed both you and me
The way things ought to be.*



Look at today's "mirror parable" about a vineyard. What is our Lord saying to you?

"MARY, MOTHER OF THE CHURCH, PRAY FOR US"