

A MESSAGE FROM DEACON ED

October 18, 2020

The Good Investment

Greetings fellow parishioners! It has certainly been an interesting time for us all. I pray for us all everyday as we face our individual and shared challenges. Many are faced with the burden of the isolation and uncertainty caused by the health crisis. Others are caught up in the political and social upheaval facing our nation, while others are dealing with the financial difficulties brought about by unemployment, underemployment, or market forces beyond their control. Seems to be a lot of problems.

As someone who has spent much of his life looking for solutions to complex problems, I tend to look for ways to attack the issues facing me. When addressing a problem, we may look to plan a way out of it. Resources, both human and financial, can be assessed for availability for investment. In expending the resources, we would be making a wager that we have planned wisely. The question if we Invested wisely would always hang there until final resolution.

The same could be said regarding our faith lives. Are we investing our resources properly?

Today, we can be easily distracted by the comings and goings of the world around us. We can wind up expending our effort, that is our investment of thought and deed, to worldly concerns. In today's Gospel, Jesus tells us we should remember there is another good investment out there for us.

St Augustine tells us in *City of God* that our lives can be lived as citizens of one of two cities, one of "worldly glory", the other inclined towards "heavenly bliss". He points out that no matter what we achieve on Earth, be it glory, riches or praise, none of it will ever come close to the joy of eternal salvation.

When Christ tells us to render unto Caesar what is his, He is expressing his disdain for the mundane, earthly issues of money, politics and taxation faced by the Jewish people at the time. Issues that divided the people causing enmity and distrust. Many of the Jewish leaders, Pharisees and Herodites alike, became caught up in these issues to where it guided their theology. In an attempt to get Jesus to address the contentious political issue of Roman occupation, they opened themselves up to exposure as having forgotten our true purpose on Earth. That is to serve and worship God.

That is what Christ is speaking of when he tells us to give God what is His. We are called to invest ourselves into those things which are pleasing to God. Are we investing enough of our time, talent, and treasure into the commodities of Faith, Hope and Love? Do we invest our time worrying or do we invest in our trust in God? How are we doing in our prayer lives? Do we need to make time for a suitable investment strategy which will gain us a place at the heavenly feast?

I pray that we all find a path through life that lead us to the true "good investment."

God Bless you all!

*Deacon Ed*