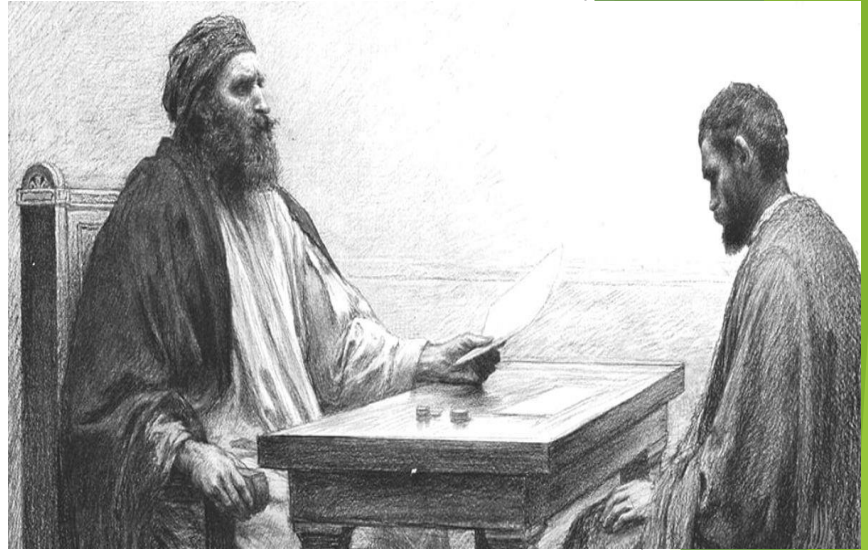




# ST. PHILIP BENIZI CATHOLIC CHURCH

September 18, 2022

Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time



## PARISH INFORMATION

18211 S Henrici RD  
Oregon City OR 97045  
PHONE: 503-631-2882  
FAX: 503-631-7443

EMAIL:  
stphilipbenizi\_redland@archdpx.org

**Pastor:** Fr. Paschal Ezurike

Email: pezurike@archdpx.org

**Parish Staff**

**Business Manager:** Mary Pattyn  
503-631-2882

mpattyn@archdpx.org

**Secretary:** Sherrie Havens  
503-631-2882

shavens@archdpx.org

**RE Director:** Melissa Payne  
503-631-2882

mbear@archdpx.org

**Music Director:** Debbie Schaffer  
(C) 503-887-7701

**Youth Minister:** Katy Schnoor  
(C) 503-314-8907

**Pastoral Council President:**

Matt Anderson

**Administrative Council Chair:**

Dan Sweeney

**Adoration:** Janet Tankersley  
(C) 503-545-2229

**Minister Volunteer Coordinators**

**Altar Servers:** Don Payne  
(H) 503-632-4370

**Prayer Requests:** Peggy St Andre  
503-631-3531

**Email Prayer Chain:** Heather Hannam  
hahannam@juno.com

## **MASS SCHEDULE:**

Saturday Vigil - 5:30pm Mass  
Sunday - 8:00am & 10:30am Mass  
Mon/Wed/Thurs/Fri - 8am Mass  
Tuesday - 6:30pm Mass

## **RECONCILIATION:**

Saturdays – 4:00-5:00pm or by Appointment

## **EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION:**

Thursdays – 8:30am-10pm (*ends with Benediction*)

## **ANOINTING OF THE SICK:**

If you or someone you know is homebound, wants to receive Communion or the Sacrament of Anointing, please call the parish office, 503-631-2882.

**Baptisms:** Call the Parish Office.

**Funerals:** Call the Parish Office.

**Weddings:** Call Fr. Paschal at least 6 months in advance of the planned date.

**St. Philip Benizi Website:** [www.philipbenizi.com](http://www.philipbenizi.com)

***God is good, all the time! All the time, God is good!***

Dear friends in Christ, on the 24th Sunday, the reflection reiterated that the God of mercy consistently searches for lost souls. And when a lost soul comes home, there is jubilation in heaven and on earth, celebrating the liberation of a precious soul from the grip and perimeters of the ancient foe. The three readings of last Sunday powerfully highlighted that God is full of mercy, and his mission is to save humanity from damnation. Although God's grace is abundant and his mercy, like a river flows forever. He continually searches for us to bring us home. It is imperative that, like the prodigal son, we should come to our senses, make ourselves available, no more running far away, no more hiding. A vital lesson from the prodigal son's action shows that making ourselves available by returning to the Lord begins when we come to our senses. And coming to our senses means using all the spiritual tools at our disposal to return home safely.

We assemble today to worship and adore the Triune God, pray for the forgiveness of our sins, thank God for his numerous blessings, and make other supplications known to him. Today's liturgy of the word urges us to reflect on our attitudes toward acquiring money and other material things; re-examine our approach and treatment of the poor and the marginalized. Most people are so indifferent to the welfare of others that they could easily denigrate and trample upon the rights of the poor to excel. Such actions have become so audible and visible today that some people worship money and material things as their creator (God). As a result, injustice, greed, and oppression are among the most significant factors perpetuating and pushing poverty to its peak in today's world.

The Prophet of justice, Amos, made it clear in his writings that he did not come from a family of prophets, nor did he even consider himself one. In his prophecy, Amos, a grower of sycamore figs and a shepherd, vehemently condemned the activities of the wealthy and powerful in his time. Also, he faulted the judicial system, which denied them (underdogs) any hope of obtaining justice. Amos' connection to the people's simple life became the center of his prophecies, as he showed a heart for the oppressed and the voiceless in the world. In today's reading, he depicts the greed and insatiable appetite of the rich, who can't wait for the holy days to be over to get back to their illicit ways and business. He condemns the separation of worship from the treatment of other people, especially the poor. It is good to know that God fights for the rights of the poor, and their exploiters should face the consequences. According to the prophecy, "The Lord has sworn by the pride of Jacob: Never will I forget a thing they (exploiters) have done." (Amos 8:7).

In the Gospel, Jesus reminds us that money and material things are not everlasting. Hence, he advises us on how to use them without losing our salvation. Our priority should be God and not mammon. Unfortunately, most people have their priorities as making money and acquiring more wealth, even to the detriment of their souls. They occupy themselves with making money by any means, not minding the outcome. For those in this unquenchable chase for illicit money clubs, the Machiavellian principle of the end justifies the means is a revered tenet. They can uproot any element on their way just to smile to the bank. They comfortably display their products on the Lord's Day, though, not out of necessity but in utter disregard of their conscience and for more wealth. Shamelessly, they alter the measuring cup to suit their greed and, in the slightest unhealthy situation, arbitrarily raise the prices of goods to the detriment of the poor and those on the margin. Also, they derive joy in producing, advertising, and selling substandard and unhealthy products to consumers because mammon has mortgaged their consciences. They are so fraudulent in their actions that the teachings of God mean nothing to them. They can easily betray and do away with God's children, just as Judas betrayed and sold Christ for money.

Jesus warns us in today's Gospel passage that we cannot serve and be faithful to both God and mammon. Jesus wants us to duly decide on whom we owe allegiance to. Who and What controls or rules us? Whose commands do we obey? These questions seem so simple, but in the real sense, they are not. Money and material possessions are good because they help us navigate and survive our day-to-day activities. However, they should not be our priority. They are transient, but God is eternal, and what matters most is where to spend eternity. Everything passes away except the Word of God. The Qoheleth repeatedly reminds us, "Vanity of vanities, all things are vanity." (Ecclesiastes 1:1-2, 13-17). However, he added, except to love God and develop a strong relationship with him. Also, Mathew records that "heaven and earth will pass away, but my words shall not pass away." (Matthew 24:35).

Furthermore, most people can attest to the magnificent beauty of the earth and the wonders of God's creation. As a result, they do unimaginable and despicable things to be comfortable, satisfy their unbridled appetite, and savor the world's sweetness. Such souls lose sight of Paul's description of heaven. Describing the unquantifiable beauty of heaven, he said, "What eye has not seen, and ear has not heard, and what has not entered the human heart, what God has prepared for those who love him." (1 Corinthians 2:9).

Indeed, no one in their right senses would like to be excluded from this kingdom where the Triune God, Mother of Jesus, and Holy men and women are resting forever. The Saints got the idea of the kingdom of heaven, which consequently pushed most of them to live a life of mortification and penance on earth to inherit it. No wonder most people that embraced the cross preferred to die for the Gospel. Aware of the beauty and uniqueness of God's Kingdom, most people gave their possessions to the poor and those in the margin instead of exploiting, feeding, and making a fortune on God's sheep. *Continued on Page 7*

## This week at SPB and Upcoming Parish/Archdiocesan Events

### Sunday, 9/18/2022

8:00am Mass: All Parishioners  
 10:30am Mass: +Fr. Michael Patrick  
 (Janet Tankersley)

### Monday, 9/19/2022

8:00am: Morning Prayer/Church

### Tuesday, 9/20/2022 Memorial of Sts. Andrew Kim Tae-Gon and Paul Chong Ha-sang

7:00pm: RCIA/Hall

### Wednesday, 9/21/2022 Feast of St. Matthew

8:00am: Morning Prayer/Church

### Thursday, 9/22/2022

8:00am: Morning Prayer/Church

7:00pm: Faith Sharing via Zoom

8:30am-10:00pm:  
 Eucharistic Adoration



### Friday, 9/23/2022 Memorial of St. Pius of Pietrelcina

8:00am: Morning Prayer/Church

### Saturday, 9/24/2022

4:00-5:00pm: Reconciliation/Church  
 5:30pm Mass: +Annette Williams (Becky Wooten)

### Sunday, 9/25/2022

8:00am: +Theresa Grand Foley (Al & Joyce Wetzel)  
 10:30am Mass: All Parishioners

**Sept. 23<sup>rd</sup>-24<sup>th</sup>:** Western OR. Catholic Charismatic Renewal Conference, Keizer  
**Sept. 25<sup>th</sup>:** JPII Young Adult Crew 10:30 Mass Mini Golf at Eagle Landing following Mass.  
**Oct. 1<sup>st</sup>:** Rosary Bowl NW 9-3pm. East Salem Community Center

### **Travel with Fr. Paschal Ezurike, on our Pilgrimage to Ireland and England**

Where: Galway, Our Lady of Knock, Cliffs of Moher, Killarney, Dingle Peninsula, Dublin, Downpatrick, City of Belfast

Trip Dates: August 11-August 21, 2023 Cost: \$4,999.00  
 Airfare and ALL-Included, except lunches and travel insurance.

To register, please contact (855) 842-8001 or (508) 340-9370. You can also register online at [www.proximotravel.com](http://www.proximotravel.com).

World Youth Day, July 29<sup>th</sup> - August 7<sup>th</sup>, 2023

Join millions of young Catholics from around the world to celebrate WYD with the Pope in Lisbon.

Register now

All young adults age 18-35 and youth ages 15-17 with a guardian are invited to join Archbishop Sample at WYD'23 in Lisbon, Portugal.

Come mini golfing with the JPII Young Adult Crew (Young Adult Group) on September 25. Attend 10:30 mass together then gather in the hall for mini golf at Eagle's Landing. For more info. see the flyer or the parish website.

It is not too late to sign up for Religious Education classes. RE classes are Sunday, 9:15-10:15. For information contact Melissa Payne [mbear@archdpx.org](mailto:mbear@archdpx.org)



*Thank you for your donations!  
 Your support is very much appreciated.*

### Finance Corner

Registered Household 218	WEEK OF 9/11/2022 <u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>
<u>Donors</u> 52	\$5,174 (online: \$3,036)	\$4,902
<u>Fiscal Year</u>	\$48,011	\$50,559

### Next Weeks Assignments

#### Ushers

9/24~5:30pm: Volunteer  
 9/25~8:00am: Dave Beaty  
 9/25~10:30am: Larry Carnahan

#### Lector/Commentator

Heather Hannam  
 Danielle Dryden  
 Jerry Siler

**September Church Cleaners:** Erin Person (503-826-4288) & Karen Baurer (503-632-2940)

**September Altar Linens:** Rosalee Welle (503-804-1739)



9/25 9:00: John & Elaine  
 11:30:







# Our Parish COMMUNITY

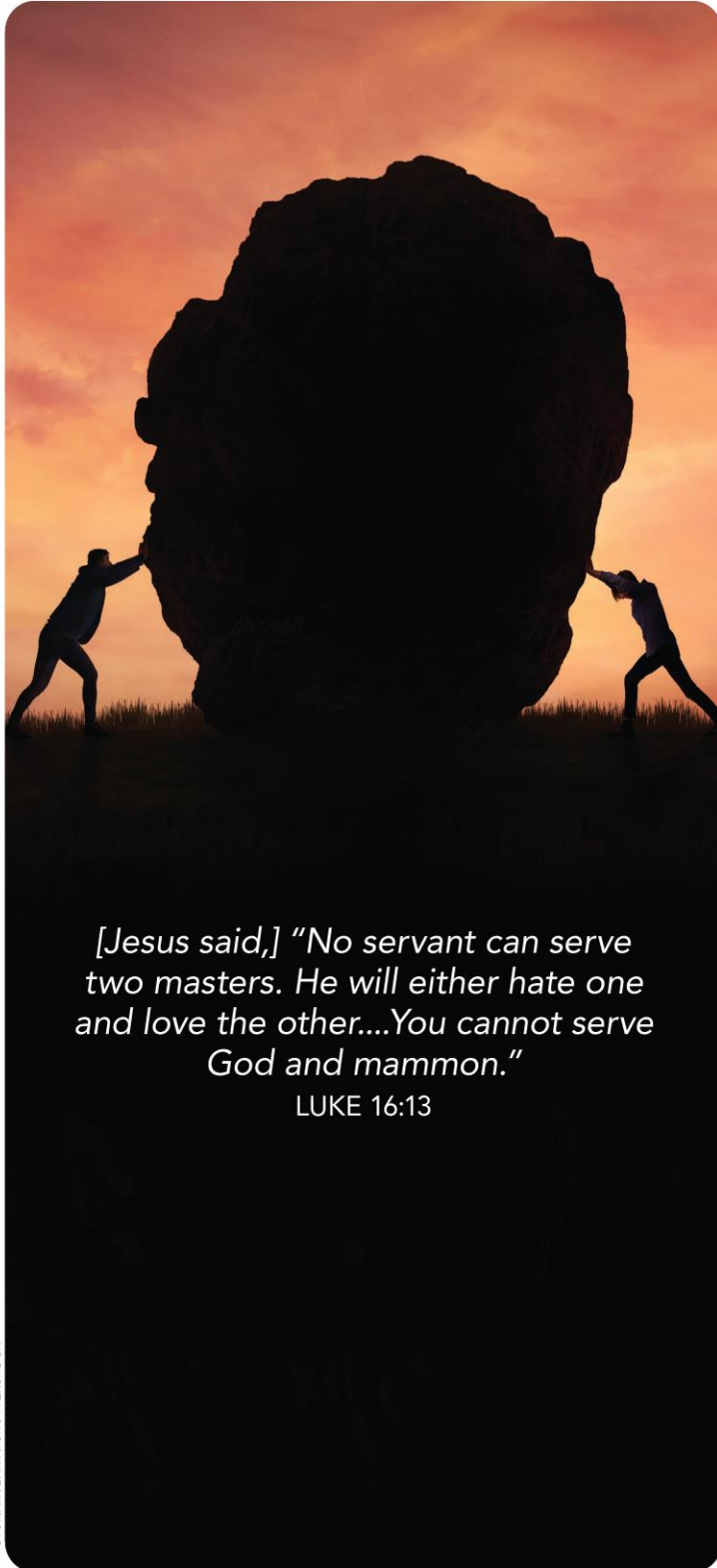
September 18, 2022

Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time (C)

Am 8:4-7

1 Tm 2:1-8

Lk 16:1-13 or 16:10-13



*[Jesus said,] "No servant can serve two masters. He will either hate one and love the other...You cannot serve God and mammon."*

LUKE 16:13

## God or Mammon?

**J**esus tells a story that might sound confusing to us because it reflects economic practices of his time, not ours. His original audience likely recognized the situation as one that was familiar to them. In the story, an employee fails to oversee and enhance the material holdings of his employer. However, when it came to getting what he could for himself from the employer's assets, he shows remarkable ability. One might say: Good for him! Even the employer thought the employee's actions showed resourcefulness.

Jesus does not applaud the specifics of the man's behavior, acceptable or not, as the case may have been. Rather, he notes that the man used whatever was available to him to ensure his own comfort in the future. Jesus then states that the ingenuity of such a man is more noteworthy than that of children of light. What a condemnation!

Jesus goes on to condemn mammon. Just what is that? It is too easy to say that mammon is money, though money is part of it. A good definition is "the greedy pursuit of gain." This could be any kind of gain over others when we make that gain the primary value in our lives. The story shows that the employee was amazingly industrious in his pursuit. In comparison, the children of light (you and me?) too often fail to demonstrate comparable industry in pursuing the true wealth of which Jesus spoke. Once again, a choice is placed before us: God or mammon?

*Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA*

### FOR Reflection

- \* *What is the driving pursuit in your life? Is it worthy of you?*
- \* *How committed are you to religious pursuits?*

# Dear Padre,

**A friend sent me a copy of *The Catholic Worker* newspaper. It was founded by one of his heroes, Dorothy Day. What can you tell me about her?**

**D**orothy Day was born in Brooklyn, New York, in 1897. She finished high school at age sixteen and joined the Socialist Party in 1914 as a college student. She converted to Catholicism in 1927.

During the Great Depression, Dorothy's commitment to the poor deepened. In 1932 she met Peter Maurin, with whom she founded the Catholic Worker Movement. In 1933 she created *The Catholic Worker* newspaper, through which

she proclaimed the rights of workers to dignity and to fair and honest treatment by industry and government, landlords, and neighbors. Her pro-labor and anti-war beliefs caused her to be labeled a Communist, but she was never a member of the Communist Party.

Dorothy's concern for social justice grew—among other things, she worked with Cesar Chavez and the United Farm Workers. She was orthodox, pious, and had a deep sense of Catholic morality.

She died in 1980. In 2000, St. John Paul II granted the Archdiocese of New York permission to open a cause for Dorothy

Day's sainthood. That cause was endorsed in 2012 by the US Conference of Catholic Bishops, who called her "a saint for our time." In December 2021, Servant of God Dorothy Day's cause advanced from the Archdiocese of New York to the Vatican's Congregation for the Causes of the Saints.

*Fr. Rick Potts, CSSR*  
[Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org](mailto:Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org)



NEW YORK WORLD-TELEGRAM & SUN COLLECTION / WIKIPEDIA

## A WORD FROM *Pope Francis*

*In these times when social concerns are so important, I cannot fail to mention the Servant of God Dorothy Day, who founded the Catholic Worker Movement. Her social activism, her passion for justice and for the cause of the oppressed, were inspired by the Gospel, her faith, and the example of the saints.*

ADDRESS TO JOINT SESSION OF US CONGRESS,  
SEPTEMBER 24, 2015

## Calendar

**Monday**  
SEPTEMBER 19  
Weekday  
Prv 3:27–34  
Lk 8:16–18

**Tuesday**  
SEPTEMBER 20  
Sts. Andrew Kim Tae-gön,  
Priest, and Paul Chông  
Ha-sang, and Companions,  
Martyrs  
Prv 21:1–6, 10–13  
Lk 8:19–21

**Wednesday**  
SEPTEMBER 21  
St. Matthew,  
Apostle and Evangelist  
Eph 4:1–7, 11–13  
Mt 9:9–13

**Thursday**  
SEPTEMBER 22  
Weekday  
Eccl 1:2–11  
Lk 9:7–9

**Friday**  
SEPTEMBER 23  
St. Pius of Pietrelcina,  
Priest  
Eccl 3:1–11  
Lk 9:18–22

**Saturday**  
SEPTEMBER 24  
Weekday  
Eccl 11:9–12:8  
Lk 9:43b–45

**Sunday**  
SEPTEMBER 25  
Twenty-sixth Sunday  
in Ordinary Time  
Am 6:1a, 4–7  
1 Tm 6:11–16  
Lk 16:19–31

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***Seek the good of all, not personal advantage***

The command has been written: *Cling to the saints, for those who cling to them will be sanctified.* There is a passage in Scripture as well which states: *With the innocent man you will be innocent, and with the chosen one you will be chosen also; likewise with the perverse you will deal perversely.* Devote yourselves, then, to the innocent and the just; they are God's chosen ones. Why are there strife and passion, schisms and even war among you? Do we not possess the same Spirit of grace which was given to us and the same calling in Christ? Why do we tear apart and divide the body of Christ? Why do we revolt against our own body? Why do we reach such a degree of insanity that we forget that we are members of one another? Do not forget the words of Jesus our Lord: *Woe to that man; it would be better for him if he had not been born rather than scandalize one of my chosen ones. Indeed, it would be better for him to have a great millstone round his neck and to be drowned in the sea than that he lead astray one of my chosen ones.* Your division has led many astray, has made many doubt, has made many despair, and has brought grief upon us all. And still your rebellion continues.

Pick up the letter of blessed Paul the apostle. What did he write to you at the beginning of his ministry? Even then you had developed factions. So, Paul, inspired by the Holy Spirit, wrote to you concerning himself and Cephas and Apollos. But that division involved you in less sin because you were supporting apostles of high reputation and a person approved by them.

We should put an end to this division immediately. Let us fall down before our master and implore his mercy with our tears. Then he will be reconciled to us and restore us to the practice of brotherly love that befits us. For this is the gate of justice that leads to life, as it is written: *Open to me the gates of justice. When I have entered there, I shall praise the Lord. This is the gate of the Lord; the just shall enter through it.* There are many gates which stand open, but the gate of justice is the gateway of Christ. All who enter through this gate are blessed, pursuing their way in holiness and justice, performing all their tasks without discord. A person may be faithful; he may have the power to utter hidden mysteries; he may be discriminating in the evaluation of what is said and pure in his actions. But the greater he seems to be, the more humbly he ought to act, and the more zealous he should be for the common good rather than his own interest.

(From a letter to the Corinthians by Saint Clement, pope)

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**REFLECTION OF THE WEEK**

**“Greed is a fat demon with a small mouth and whatever you feed it is never enough.” —  
Janwillem Van De Wetering.**

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**St. Philip Benizi Mission Statement**

St. Philip Benizi Catholic Church being part of the universal church shares in its mission: to proclaim Jesus Christ who came to the world to fulfill His father's will; by proclaiming the kingdom of God, building up the parish community as a witness to God's love and care for the world, helping one another to become what God has called us to be. We are therefore encouraged to work toward God's purpose of “wanting all men to be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth.” (1 Tim 2:4).

### III. TRUE GOD AND TRUE MAN

The Monophysites affirmed that the human nature had ceased to exist as such in Christ when the divine person of God's Son assumed it. Faced with this heresy, the fourth ecumenical council, at Chalcedon in 451, confessed:

Following the holy Fathers, we unanimously teach and confess one and the same Son, our Lord Jesus Christ: the same perfect in divinity and perfect in humanity, the same truly God and truly man, composed of rational soul and body; consubstantial with the Father as to his divinity and consubstantial with us as to his humanity; "like us in all things but sin". He was begotten from the Father before all ages as to his divinity and in these last days, for us and for our salvation, was born as to his humanity of the virgin Mary, the Mother of God.

We confess that one and the same Christ, Lord, and only-begotten Son, is to be acknowledged in two natures without confusion, change, division or separation. The distinction between the natures was never abolished by their union, but rather the character proper to each of the two natures was preserved as they came together in one person (prosopon) and one hypostasis. CCC 467

After the Council of Chalcedon, some made of Christ's human nature a kind of personal subject. Against them, the fifth ecumenical council, at Constantinople in 553, confessed that "there is but one hypostasis [or person], which is our Lord Jesus Christ, one of the Trinity." Thus everything in Christ's human nature is to be attributed to his divine person as its proper subject, not only his miracles but also his sufferings and even his death: "He who was crucified in the flesh, our Lord Jesus Christ, is true God, Lord of glory, and one of the Holy Trinity." CCC 468

The Church thus confesses that Jesus is inseparably true God and true man. He is truly the Son of God who, without ceasing to be God and Lord, became a man and our brother: "What he was, he remained and what he was not, he assumed", sings the Roman Liturgy. And the liturgy of St. John Chrysostom proclaims and sings: "O only-begotten Son and Word of God, immortal being, you who deigned for our salvation to become incarnate of the holy Mother of God and ever-virgin Mary, you who without change became man and were crucified, O Christ our God, you who by your death have crushed death, you who are one of the Holy Trinity, glorified with the Father and the Holy Spirit, save us!" CCC 469

Continued from page 2.

**On the contrary, most 21st-century disciples of Christ are immensely in acquiring money and other material possessions. The ugly side is they accumulate their wealth through fraudulent and sneaky means. For instance, lying has become part of their day-to-day activities. Killing a human person for money is as fast and easy as snapping one's fingers. They have hardened their hearts to the commandments, "thou shall not kill, and thou shall keep the Sabbath holy." (Exodus 20: 8-11; 13). In addition, they have forgotten that God's unique kingdom awaits those who invest their time, talent, and treasure to assist the poor; instead of defrauding the poor and becoming wealthy through the unchristian way.**

**The psalmist reminds us that we should praise the Lord, who raises the poor. The poor need upliftment through us. The best way to invest is to invest in the poor. We should therefore learn to invest in the poor to improve their conditions. Amassing wealth for ourselves without using them to help those in need, only amounts to greed and selfishness. Money and wealth are valued only when used wisely to help those around us. Only fools hold tenaciously to money and wealth above God; only the rapacious aggressively seek material things to the detriment of the poor. Also, only the ungodly use their wealth to oppress the poor and the weak. St. Theresa of Avila said, "Christ has no body but yours; No hands, no feet on earth but yours, yours are the eyes with which he looks compassionately on this world. Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good. Yours are the hands with which he blesses all the world. Yours are the hands; yours are the feet. Yours are the eyes, and you are his body. Christ has no body now but you; no hands, no feet on earth but yours. Yours are the eyes with which he looks with compassion on this world. Christ has no body now on earth but yours."**

**As God's children, it is vital to challenge ourselves to flee from any unholy transactions that favor the unholy trinity of me, myself, and I. Guard against the deception of the external things and shows many portray. Such things are cover-ups; most of the actors have no peace. With that said, always remember the wisdom of William Shakespeare, "All that glitters is not gold." May we work on focusing our attention on the kingdom described by Paul rather than limiting everything on evanescent earth. Finally, let us never lose sight that the creator will demand an account of our stewardship. To submit a good report, one should not serve God and mammon. The report sheet is perfect and complete when one surrenders to God and firmly disdains frivolities. Finally, search diligently to discover the mammon that inhibits your spiritual growth. Remember, the closer we are to God, the better for us.**

***Blessings, Your servant in Christ,  
Fr. Paschal Ezurike.***





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