



Thirty-Third Sunday of Ordinary Time November 19, 2017 A

TIME TALENT WEEKEND

- **Might we be hiding or not using a talent God gave us to bless the communities we belong to?**
- **“Go-Getters for God”**

This weekend, I, as your pastor, am very grateful to all of you who faithfully give our parish a portion of your *time, talent and treasure*. Without this generosity, we would not have a parish. Or we certainly would not be the vibrant parish that we are.

In this week’s bulletin, you will find a list of our parish ministries and the names of the contact persons if you wish to get more information about any of the ministries.

Reflections on the Gospel

The following reflection is by Patricia Sanchez.

“Go-Getters” for God

We all know them—the “go-getters” who take an idea and run with it through the ups and downs of life until they achieve success. Our shared human story is made so much more interesting by these people who have started small and finished big, all because they were bold enough to risk whatever was necessary to realize their goals. Some of these “go-getters,” such as David Thomas (Wendy’s), David Edgerton and James McLamore (Burger King) and Ray Kroc (McDonald’s) took a concept like “fast food” and made it what many find to be a “necessity” of life. Most of these entrepreneurs share similar stories. Like Glen Bell, Jr., the founder of Taco Bell, who grew up in poverty and rode the rails during the Great Depression, most have overcome considerable obstacles before finding themselves numbered among Fortune’s 500. As Bell put it, “it is possible to have humble beginnings and, through hard work, to succeed

beyond your wildest dreams.” But what is it that enabled these “giants” of industry to accomplish their purpose? How did they succeed where so many others have failed?

What, for example, made Abraham Lincoln continue to pursue a career in public service after two failures in business, eight defeats at various runs for public office, a nervous breakdown and the loss of a sweetheart to death? What would cause a person to continue to follow studies in science after being labeled a “misfit” by his teachers and “abnormal” by his parents because he had not learned to read by age 9? What would make him persevere after miserably failing his college entrance exams? Fortunately, these obstacles did not deter the man whom the world would later know and admire as Albert Einstein.

What, for that matter, would account for the disparity in the success rate of the servants featured in today’s Gospel? Therein, the Matthean Jesus tells of three persons who were entrusted by their employer with a share of money—each, as we are told, “according to his ability.” While two invested and recouped the employer’s money as well as a sizeable profit, the third took the route of the ostrich and buried the money, as well as any hope of a profit, in the ground. What made this third person fail where the others succeeded? Was it fear? Was it a lack of gumption? Was it laziness, as the employer’s angry words appeared to suggest? Or was the servant simply unwilling to become as fully invested in his employer’s business as his employer had intended?

This servant called “worthless” and the others who are called “industrious,” “reliable” and “dependable” provide the lesson today for Jesus’ disciples. As sharers in the “business” of Jesus, i.e., of preaching and teaching the good news of salvation by word and example, we are called to be risk-takers who choose to commit ourselves to the cause of truth and justice and peace. While it may be safer to bury or to hold tight

the good news that has been invested in us, we are challenged to be daring in its promulgation. We are to take it with us to people and to places that may not afford us welcome. We are to dare to speak its message even where and when it shall be deemed unpopular, unwanted or passé.

(Used with permission, *The Word We Celebrate: Commentary on the Sunday Lectionary—Years A, B, C*, by Patricia Sanchez—Sheed & Ward Publisher (9-1-89.)

Many of you reading this column are already involved in one or more of our ministries—thank you. Some of you volunteer outside the parish—bless you. Many of you may have a talent and, hopefully, a little time that could be a blessing to our Church family or wider community. You may have a talent that you would love to share but feel you have no outlet right now to use it. Keep asking the Lord for guidance and direction.

Have a blessed week,

Le Sarah

