

Homily

33rd Sunday of OT A 11.19.17

Father Todd Molinari

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

At the end of every liturgical year the Church looks ahead to the fullness of time, to the harvest of God's grace: the final fulfillment in all the baptized and indeed in all creation of the work that Jesus began in his life, death and resurrection. Although it is true that he does not need us to complete his work, the Lord has chosen to entrust his work of redemption - of communicating his healing and mercy - to us his Church. As his worthy spouse, we work with God for the healing and salvation of the world. We are now God's betrothed - we are the bride of Christ the bridegroom, who, like the king's wife in Proverbs, do our work with loving hands, moved by a thankful attitude of having responded to him when he visited us.

The third servant in today's parable of the talents understands something about God that we may forget: God is not ashamed to harvest where another person has planted and to gather what someone else has scattered. God has the holy audacity to take even the evil planted by the enemy and turn it into a rich harvest of good - to see in the sins of this person the occasion for conversion in that person; to turn this misstep and pride into next year's humility and discernment. God sees our future in the wounds and sins of our past.

In place of the third servant's servile fear of wrath and punishment, we should pray for the holy fear of missing the opportunity to respond to God's visitations and grace when he does act in our life or the lives of others. This is the gift of hope. Looking to the Lord's harvest and work of grace and not wanting to miss out on it is the true fear of the Lord. Instead of counting sins, faults, blemishes and mistakes, we reach out our hands to the sinner, to the poor, to the needy. In this way our holy fear of the Lord through our holy vigilance and not wanting to miss out on his action of grace will enable his Church to be a fitting bride to Christ the bridegroom.