

The Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time/  
Catechetical Sunday / Year C  
17/18 September 2016 ~  
Our Lady of Victory Parish Community ~ HOMILY

**1<sup>st</sup> Reading:**

Amos 8:4-7

**Responsorial Psalm:**

Psalm 113 - *Sung*

**2<sup>nd</sup> Reading:**

1 Timothy 2:1-8

**GOSPEL:**

**LUKE 16:1-13**

I. One of my “new” favorite shows on TV is on the Food Network . . . and it’s “**Chopped**”. I like it because, “**A**”, it’s generally on late at night, so, it fits my “home” schedule; “**B**”, it is pretty much a “family-rated” show, and “**C**”, those on “**Chopped**” need to really be creative and resourceful, given some of the . . . in my humble opinion . . . awful, **AWFUL** ingredients they are given to turn into superior food creations . . .

II. In one respect, the story that we hear in the Gospel of the dishonest steward saving his position, and actually being commended by his master for his dishonest, but **resourceful** ways, does not sound all too unrealistic or far-fetched. Still, Jesus use of this parable **is** somewhat surprising . . . perhaps even jarring. Especially if we consider the other statements Jesus is reported to have made to his disciples following the story of the “dishonest steward” . . . ending it with the pretty familiar, “No servant can serve two masters. . . . You cannot serve both God and mammon.”, the latter being a name for “money or wealth” in Jesus’ day and age.

Yet, the disciples did understand the point Jesus was making . . . they understood it well . . . for his bottom line was not so much about telling a story that commended dishonesty . . . but about creativity, in some ways . . . but mostly about **resourcefulness** . . . **about energy** . . . and how someone would not think twice about doing all they could to protect their own interests . . . their position of power or influence or comfort or wealth . . . as was the case with the dishonest steward. He had a lot at stake,

and he was not about to loose it. He was going to be **resourceful . . . he was going to devote time and energy and creativity** to saving himself and his position . . .

In fact, one can almost hear Jesus saying, “Listen . . . if you who believe in God . . . if you who believe that I’m the one God sent . . . if you who have come to understand that what I am about is raising up the poor and the lowly . . . bringing healing to the suffering . . . and forgiveness and peace to the sinner . . . if you have come to believe and understand that my very reason for being here is so that you can have a way to eternal life with the God who loves you more than you can possibly know . . . well then, you will be **resourceful . . . you will devote all of your time and energy and creativity** to get that message out so that **all** people will benefit . . . **Why?** Because the result in the end is far richer . . . far greater than any position you will ever have in this life . . . than any **wealth** you will ever experience . . . than any **power** you may think you possess! Be **good stewards . . . stewards** of what God has given you . . . “

III. That message needs to be heard as much today as it did over 2,000 years ago . . . each of us needs to be **good stewards . . . perhaps better stewards** of all that God has given us . . . .

This particular weekend, we recognize Catechists . . . male and female, young and old . . . who devote time and energy and creativity to getting the message out . . . to

sharing the most precious gift any of us has been given . . .  
. the gift of faith . . . faith that colors the way we see all of  
life . . . faith that leads us to union and communion with  
God . . . faith that gives life meaning and purpose . . . faith  
that restores hope . . .

I once read that the work of a Catechist “is about stirring to flame the fire of faith in the hearts of all believers” and that when someone takes “the initiative to share the riches of the Gospel with others, [they] are acting as good stewards of God’s gifts.” Well, for any who still may be wondering just what evangelization is about . . .  
. **this** is precisely **what** evangelization is all about.

It is not limited to working to bring someone who does not believe in God to believing in God . . . but, much like Jesus ministry . . . working to draw out even more the faith of the believer . . . draw it out so that faith in God shapes life . . . not life shapes our faith in God.

The truth of the matter is that while we recognize our own Catechists this particular weekend . . . recognize the work they do with our children, our youth, with those considering being fully initiated through Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist into the Roman Catholic Church . . . those who work with couples to prepare them for marriage . . . who work with adults to aid in growth of their faith lives . . . we must not forget that we are **all** called to be Catechists . . . we are **all** called to be Evangelizers . . . **resourceful** believers willing to **devote time and energy and creativity** in being **good** stewards .

. . perhaps **better stewards** . . . of all of the gifts God has given to us . . . especially the life-changing . . . life-giving **gift** of faith . . .