



Archdiocese of San Antonio

Most Reverend Gustavo García-Siller



Homily - Pastoral Ministry Ambassadors Mass

June 25, 2016

You have been called to serve. You have been called to go out and make God's mercy and love known through that service to God's people. It can be hard to focus on God's voice as you follow his will in your ministry, but luckily, the Scriptures have a lot to say about how to be a good servant of the Lord and of our brothers in sisters.

God sends his Spirit upon his servants, empowering them to bring forth justice in the world. Justice means setting things right, restoring right relationships – within a person, with others, with the environment, and with God. Moreover, God's Spirit is gentle, sensitive, and compassionate: God's Servant does not shout but speaks firmly and tenderly. God's Servant does not break a reed that is broken or cast aside a person who is hurting. God's Servant, empowered by the Holy Spirit, shares God's enduring love, mercy, and compassion with others.

The Parable of the Talents highlights our responsibility to exercise stewardship over our gifts. At the time of Jesus, a talent, a unit of money, was equivalent to what a laborer earned over a twenty year

period. It is a lot of money! God is very generous. God is also wise. God gives each of us what we are capable of handling. God also leaves us free to decide how to use and multiply these gifts. But he calls us to invest them generously and not to hold them back.

Investing our gifts generously with God's people multiplies their value in other people's lives. But the parable also describes an unfaithful servant who does nothing to enhance the God-given gifts. He is afraid, lazy, and incompetent. God's empowering Spirit cannot work through such a person!

When preaching on this Parable of the Talents, Pope Francis gave us all a clear call to service: "We are in the time of action — the time in which we should bring God's gifts to fruition, not for ourselves but for him, for the Church, for others... Have you thought about the talents that God has given you? Have you thought of how you can put them at the service of others? Do not bury your talents! Set your stakes on great ideals, the ideals that enlarge the heart, the ideals of service that make your talents fruitful. Life is not given to us to be jealously guarded for ourselves, but is given to us so that we may give it in turn. Dear [people], have a deep spirit! Do not be afraid to dream of great things!"

May Our Lady, the Mother of God, accompany us on our journey and help us to generously use the Spirit's gifts to us to build up God's kingdom.