Don’t bury your talent: Multiply God’s gift

This Weekend’s Gospel, the Parable of the Talents, speaks directly to us as we approach the Feast of Christ the King.

A master entrusts three servants with talents according to their ability – five, two, and one. The first two trade and double what they received. The third, out of fear, hides his. When the master returns, he praises the first two: “Well done, good and trustworthy servant... enter into the joy of your master.” But to the third he says, “You wicked and lazy servant!”

The message is stark. As St. John Chrysostom explains in his Homily 77 on Matthew, these talents are not simply money; they include speech, power, wisdom and every responsibility entrusted to us. And as St. Augustine says: “Whatever you have, you have received from God. You are not the owner, but the steward.”

So, let us ask: Do we live as stewards, or as owners? Do we trade with our gifts for His Kingdom, or leave them unused out of fear or busyness?

How do we multiply our gifts?
It is not about being wealthy or famous. We can start with what we have, where we are.

In our families: Parents multiply their gifts when they teach children to pray, to forgive, and to live honestly. Husbands and wives multiply them through patience, affection, and forgiveness. Grandparents multiply them when they share their wisdom and pray for their grandchildren.

In our parish: We multiply our gifts when we become active members of the Christian community. Some can serve as lectors, altar servers, extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion, catechists, choir members, ushers and members of parish organizations. Others can visit the sick, welcome newcomers, support struggling families or quietly assist someone who needs encouragement. The Church is not just a place we come to receive; it is a community where every baptized person has a responsibility to contribute.

In society: We multiply our gifts when we practise honesty at work, fairness in business, compassion for the vulnerable, and integrity in public life. A Christian teacher, doctor, farmer, mechanic or public servant makes the world better by doing ordinary work extraordinarily well.

Pope Francis in Evangelii Gaudium (No. 24) calls us to be missionary disciples who take the first step, become involved, and bear fruit. Pope Benedict XVI in Deus Caritas Est. (No. 31) reminds us to respond to concrete human needs where we are.

My dear brothers and sisters, it is never too late to begin.
Perhaps you have neglected your prayer life – begin again.
Perhaps you have been absent from parish life – get involved again.
Perhaps you have allowed disagreements to break relationships – take the first step to reconcile.
Perhaps you have been blessed financially – begin sharing.

Do not wait for perfect conditions. A small seed planted faithfully can become a mighty tree. A simple act of kindness can restore someone's hope.

It is time to unbury our talents. Our parish needs stewards.

If you have the gift of speech and presence, can you be a Reader or Welcomer?
If you have reverence and care, can you serve as an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion or with the Altar Servers?
If you have the gift of music, can you join the Choir?
If you have teaching and patience, can you help with Children's Liturgy, RCIA, or Sacramental Preparation?
If you have compassion and a listening heart, can you join the Bereavement Team?
If you have time and strength, can you help with Cleaning, Grounds, Counting, or Our parish helping hand?
Blessings.