

## Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

A doctor and a lawyer were attending a cocktail party when the doctor was approached by a man who asked advice on how to handle his ulcer. The doctor mumbled some medical advice, then turned to the lawyer and remarked, "I never know how to handle the situation when I'm asked for medical advice during a social function. Is it acceptable to send a bill for such advice?" The lawyer replied that it was certainly acceptable to do so. The next day, the doctor sent the ulcer-stricken man a bill. The lawyer also sent a bill to the doctor.

Dear Friends,

Today's world draws more of our attention. We accumulate things as we grow older and then want to get rid of which is not possible later. We have a story for everything that we have in our houses. Some of them are more valuable and priceless. Some may lose its value on its course.

Today's readings direct our attention to the virtue of sharing. Both the first reading and the Gospel insist on the value of sharing in its own way.

In the first reading from the Book of Ecclesiastics, the author expresses a ruthlessly honest pessimism about the prospects for finding true happiness in the greedy acquisition of earthly goods. This is because the greedy hoarder must leave everything behind at his death, and his heir may squander his hard-earned wealth. Even while he is alive, wealth and power give man worry and sleeplessness. "All his days sorrow and grief are his occupation; even at night his mind is not at rest" (Eccl 2:23). Hence, greed and selfishness are not worth the effort.

In the second reading, Paul directs our attention to lasting Heavenly treasures and warns that greed for wealth and influence is idolatry. He advises the Colossians, "Put to death, your parts that are earthly: immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and the greed that is idolatry". he asks us to stay focused on the things of God, for that's where our true destiny lies.

In the Gospel, Jesus answers the questions in two ways. First, he strongly conveys that he is not the judge between two of them. God is the only judge in the world. Then he gives the parable that we heard today.

The rich man was honest and hard working. But he did not think to share and did not realize that God has given everything to him. In his Angelus in 2019, pope Francis spoke the following.

What, according to Pope Francis, is the source of true happiness?

It is understood that this does not mean estranging oneself from reality, but rather seeking the things that have true value: justice, solidarity, welcome, fraternity, peace, all things that make up the true dignity of mankind. It is a case of leading a life that is fulfilled not according to a worldly manner, but rather according to the style of the Gospel: to love God with all one's being, and love one's neighbor as Jesus loved him, that is, in service and in giving oneself. Covetousness of goods, the desire to have goods, does not satisfy the heart, but rather causes more hunger! Covetousness is like those tasty candies: you take one and say: "Ah! It is so good," and then you take

another; and one follows the other. Such is covetousness: it never satisfies. Be careful! Love that is understood and lived in [the style of the Gospel] is the source of true happiness, whereas the exaggerated search for material goods and wealth is often a source of anxiety, adversity, abuse of power, war. Many wars begin from covetousness. Today let us pray that we share our things with people in need.