**18th Ordinary Sunday C**

“If you were raised with Christ seek what is above, set your mind on things that are above, not on things that are on earth.” These are the words of St. Paul in the second reading of today. Things of this world last only a short period of time and they cannot satisfy the deep longings of human heart. There is an eternal longing for true happiness in every human person. We try to satisfy that longing using material things. We think we find that happiness in wealth, in riches, alcohol or drugs. We falsely think that if we have a better car or a better house or a better spouse or more money or material things we would be happy. But sadly these things cannot satisfy our longing. Longing for true happiness is an eternal longing and it can be satisfied only by something eternal. There is only one thing that is eternal. That is God. So, only He can fully satisfy the longings of human heart. Things of this world cannot. That is why Jesus called the rich man of today’s gospel “you fool.” He was foolishly searching to fulfill the longings of his heart in material things. Jesus tells us in the gospel, “Take care to guard against all greed, for though one may be rich, a man’s life does not consist of possessions.” The rich man in the gospel had a bountiful harvest but he never thought of thanking God for it or to share it. God is the giver of all gifts.

We need to remember that all that we have comes from God. So we should be able to give some of it back to God to give him glory. Some of us find it hard to put $10 in the offertory basket even though we can afford. Your tithing to Church should be part of your household budget and not looking for the wallet when the offertory basket comes around. Plan your tithing and come prepared to Mass. The envelopes are mailed to you if you are a registered member of the Church. That envelope is the wrapper for your gift to the Lord. When you give a gift to someone won’t you wrap it beautifully and write your name on it? Your gift to the Lord on Sunday too needs to be wrapped and prepared. Bring your gift to the Lord every time you come Mass on Sunday. What you put in the offertory basket on Sunday is your gift to the Lord. We all got to make sacrifices. Nothing happens without sacrifices. It is the Lord who gives you health and wealth. He can take it away from you any minute. As you can see in the bulletin this weekend we are not bringing enough money each month to pay our bills. We are $22000 in the red for the past six months. In order to keep the church going we got to make sacrifices and tithe 10% of your total income before tax to the church.

Ask yourselves what is the greatest sacrifice you could make to share your blessings with God. Everyone putting $1 in the offertory basket will not help us the Church to pay its bills and keep it open. In the last month I have been here I had to deal with some repairs and maintenance issues. To fix a leaking roof was $2000. To repair the walk-in cooler was nearly $4000. To repair the leaking baptismal font would have cost us $600. By God’s grace, someone volunteered to repair that. To replace the burned our lights in the parking lot was the cost was $2000. All these in just one month. Giving money to the Church alone is not enough. We got to give God our time and talents as well. When you volunteer at church you save money and bring the church expenses down. If you are landscaper or an electrician or a plumber or carpenter or mason or possess any other skills and would like to share your skill with the Church we will be able to keep our expenses down. I can think of many persons who were huge helps to my previous church in Ontario. One of them particularly stands out. He is Rogelio Augilar who owned a landscaping company. He took care of the lawn of the Church and the School ground in Spring and Summer and snow removal in winter for FREE. That saved the Church nearly $8000 every year. When he did that God blessed him with so much more work that every year he had to hire more employees to keep up with the work orders. His work grew from three employees to 12 employees. We got to be generous to the Lord with our talents, time and material wealth.

If our destination is heaven we need to show concrete acts of detachment by way of sharing the material goods we have with God and others. The destiny that awaits us is the consequences of our actions here on earth. Therefore, let us store up treasure in heaven by sharing your material blessings with God and others.