

**33<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle A**  
**November 16, 2008**

**Readings: Proverbs 31:10-13,19-20,30-31; 1 Thessalonians 5:1-6; Matthew 25:14-30**

**We Are Children of the Light**

As some of you know, I'm currently taking classes at Oakland University to obtain my teacher certification. I'm not sure if teaching is supposed to be my next career or not, but since it takes two years to get certified, I decided to get ready just in case nothing else comes along. On Wednesday evening during class, our instructor had a guest speaker come and talk to us; it was the president of the teacher's union in Bloomfield Hills. I knew I should try to keep my mouth shut, but well that's just not who I am. In preparation for our speaker, our instructor asked, "What do teacher unions do?" I raised my hand and replied, "They support Democratic, pro-abortion politicians." From the look on her face, I don't think that was the answer she was looking for. The union leader went on to try to explain how all of the extreme liberal positions of the National Education Association were important to education and to carrying out the responsibilities of being a caring teacher. I told him that we would have 30% more students to teach if we put an end to abortion; that putting an end to abortion would be good for teacher's job security. The point of the story is that my classmates, and my instructor, now know clearly where I stand on abortion. I let my faith be known and didn't try to hide my beliefs.

How easy and comfortable it is sometimes to be quiet. Do your friends, coworkers, classmates, or even family members know about your religious and moral beliefs? Or do you keep all your discussions politically correct so that no one is offended, and so that you are not made uncomfortable. St. Paul tells us that we are *children of the light and children of the day*. We need to let the light of our faith shine brightly and not hide it under a basket. Light expands and reaches out. Darkness is an emptiness, a void that contracts.

We are all children of God and have inherent value through the gifts He has given us. Our value is not measured by how much money or fame or external beauty we possess. The worthy wife in our first reading had a value far beyond that of pearls. Why? It didn't say she was physically beautiful or had many possessions or was famous. She had value because she used her talents from God to be productive and to reach out with compassion to the poor and the needy. We all have value and need to be the best person we can be to give glory to God.

We need to be proud of who we are and what we believe as Christians. That is how we multiply our talents. We cannot dig a hole and bury our faith. We cannot hold our tongue and be quiet when injustices take place around us. We cannot hide our light under a bushel basket. For if we do, the flame might be suffocated for lack of air, and our light will be extinguished, and we will be thrown into the darkness where there is wailing and gnashing of teeth like the useless servant in our gospel this morning. That servant knew that his master was demanding, but he still hid the master's money away instead of multiplying it.

God is loving, but God is also a demanding Master. He has given us the gift of faith and He wants it to grow and expand and spread to others. It is not something we should

keep to ourselves. Be proud of who you are. Be the best person that you can be; the person that God intends you to be. And be proud of your faith. Everyone should know that you are a child of God by the way you live your life.

**Deacon Joe Hulway**