

5th Sunday of Ordinary Time

Job 7:1-4, 6-7
Ps 147:1-6
1 Cor 9:16-19, 22-23
Mark 1:29-39

Monday February 5 St. Agatha

1 Kings 8:1-7,9-13
Ps 132:6-10
Mark 6:53-56

Tuesday February 6 Sts. Paul Miki & co.

1 Kings 8:22-23,27-30
Ps 84:3-5,10,11
Mark 7:1-13

Wednesday February 7

1 Kings 10:1-10
Ps 37:30-31,39-40
Mark 7:14-23

Thursday February 8

1 Kings 11:4-13
Ps 106:3-4,35-36,37,40
Mark 7:24-30

Friday February 9

1 Kings 11:29-32;12:19
Ps 81:10-15
Mark 7:31-37

Saturday February 10 St. Scholastica

1 Kings 12:26-32; 13:33-34
Ps 106:6-7ab,19-22
Mark 8:1-10

Today's reading from St. Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians describes my own ministry of writing this and other bulletin articles:

If I preach the Good News, this is no reason for me to boast, because I have an obligation to do this, and woe to me if I do not do it! If I do so willingly, I'm rewarded for it, but if unwillingly, I'm merely fulfilling my responsibility of stewardship. What then is my reward? That, when I share the Good News, I am able to offer it free of charge so that all may benefit.

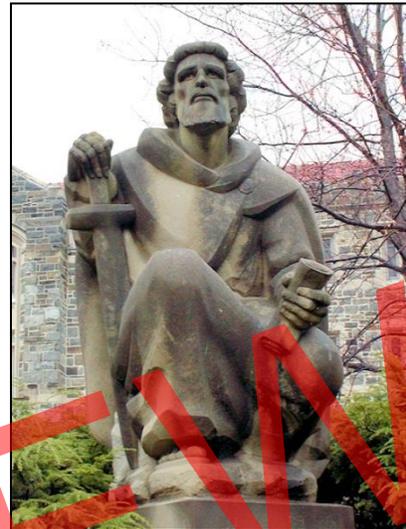
Saint Paul was not saying it's wrong to charge a fee. In fact, Jesus said that the worker deserves his wages (Luke 10:7). But Paul knew that what matters most is being a good steward of the gifts that God has given us.

What are the gifts that God has given you? We have all been entrusted with an obligation to continue the ministry of Christ on earth in our contemporary world. A Christian

who does not follow Christ in ministry has a lazy faith, or a self-focused faith, an unlively faith.

Using your gifts, talents, wisdom, knowledge, compassion, etc., generously for the benefit of the faith of others is an alive faith. The immediate reward is a joyful awareness of being in partnership with Christ.

The Gospel reading shows us the generosity of Peter's mother-in-law in sharing her talent of hospitality. And it



shows us the determination of Jesus to preach the gospel widely and tirelessly.

Both are examples of good stewardship. All gifts and talents and financial earnings are blessings from God that are meant to be shared. This is how to feel fully alive in the faith!

Reflect & Discuss:

1. What have you received from God?
2. How much of it is being shared with others?
3. What seems too inadequate to give away?
4. How can you become a better steward of God's gifts?
5. Name any service that you provide: How important is it to you that you keep doing it no matter what?
6. How important to Jesus do you think it is? Why?