in general, we become afraid of losing what we have and the result is "possessiveness". By and large, the world regards the blessings of gifts and talents to be personal possessions.

But what if we were to consider that everything we own is on loan, would we be more willing to share and sacrifice? The saying, **"we do not inherit the earth from our ancestors, we borrow it from our children"** expresses the truth of living on borrowed time and space. If we were not caught up with being entitled, then the idea of stewardship can flow into an attitude of taking care of things that do not belong to us. *(Extract from the Homilies of a Jesuit dated 19 November 2023)*

Another perspective is to see the talents given to the three servants as not so much as monetary gifts or personal capacities; they are a share in the mercy of God... The problem with the timid servant who buried his talent is not that he was an ineffective venture capitalist but that he fundamentally misunderstood the nature of what he had been given. The divine mercy—received as a pure gift—is meant to be given to others as a pure gift. Buried in the ground, that is to say, hugged tightly to oneself as one's own possession, such a talent necessarily fades away. And this is why the master's seemingly harsh words should not be read as the punishment of an angry God but as an expression of spiritual physics: the divine mercy will grow in you only inasmuch as you give it to others. *(Extract from wordonfire.org on the parable of the talents 2014)*

We can only feel the fullness of God's love and power within us when we let it flow out to others. *(Terry A, Modice, 7 Jun 2005)*

God does not endow people with identical or necessarily equal gifts. And God does not expect identical or necessarily equal results from everyone's work. In the parable, one servant makes a return of five talents, while another makes two talents. How have we use these talents given to us?

SCRIPTURE *of the* **DAY**

Proverbs 31: 10-13, 19-20, 30-31
Psalm 127: 1-5
1 Thessalonians 5: 1-6
Matthew 25: 14-30 (or 25: 14-15, 19-21)

"We must recognize our grave duty to hand the earth on to future generations in such a condition that they too can worthily inhabit it and continue to cultivate it."

- Pope Benedict XVI

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NEWBEC

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WALKING TOGETHER TOWARDS A SYNODAL AND PROPHETIC CHURCH

A People for Missionary Discipleship

MONTHLY FOCUS: **ECOLOGY: The Cry Of The Earth Is The Cry Of The Poor**



Are we Stewards (or Hoarders)?

Today's parable is focused on the stewardship of God's graces and gifts and our accountability for what we have been blessed with. When we view stewardship in terms of ownership, narrow selfishness can creep in. We might view stewardship as developing one's gifts for self-preservation or to enrich oneself. Development in itself is not a bad thing. But when we take "blessings" as "ours" or "mine",