

The Parable of the Talents

Matthew 5:4-10

We are fortunate to belong to such a warm & wonderful parish. We are blessed to have such a warm & wonderful Pastor here on earth as Father Jozef. We are grateful for the support both Father Jozef and our Parish family have shown in the "Talent" project. We have compiled the stories and ideas to share with you. We hope they inspire and move you spiritually as much as they did us.

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Sincerely in the Lord,
The Stewardship Committee

LOVE

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- Gift from the heart
- Extra donation. *Many* others did the same.
- Times are tough, disabled & laid off...still giving financially & of ourselves.
- Each trip to the band I added \$1.00.
- God has blessed me with a love of animals, which I try to share with others. I am greatly Blessed!
- We made a snowman and sold it for \$20.00. We made another snowman & sold it for \$30.00.
- Business is not my best forte...I cannot accept payment from a friend. I made a jewelry set as a gift and received extra payment for that gift. I give my profit to Jesus...
- I purchased a newspaper with coupons in it. Then I used the coupons to purchase some needed items at the store. Between double coupons and store savings, this is how the treasure was increased.
- I raked leaves. (\$5.00)
I earned money by raking leaves (\$5.00)

Sacrifice

Gracious

We told our children we would match what they gave in their bags. (\$10.00)

· I had a pizza party for a few family members & friends and I asked them to leave a tip. Here it is.

· For our gift, my father and I went out on a Sunday and did some work on our USA Today machines in Williamsport through Lamar. We had the chance to spend the day together and talk. It was a great time and even though it was cold we really had fun together. We decided that we would give all the money from the machines we worked on that day as our gift to the newborn Price of Peace.

My father and I were very pleased to use our time and talents to perform this task and as a result we are able to give the treasure from our days work together.

Grateful

· I sold roll up lasagna& manicotti

I helped some one to make their cookies and received a donation for my effort.

I made some candy. These four things earned money.

I gave away 10 trays of mixed cookies to friends & neighbors.

· I sing ☺

· I increased my gold coin seven times. One for each week...I hope this please God...I am returning this money for you to use, as you feel fit. God Bless You.

· I would buy 2 doughnuts a week, so I skipped them and put the money in the pouch. The Lord gave me a talent. I have been a caregiver all my life and still am.

· *A gift:*

The Lord's Prayer is a beautiful prayer, whether it he recited or sung at Mass, I particularly enjoy when we sing the prayer, and thought it would be nice to set the words to a beautiful Christmas tune for the Congregation to sing during the Christmas Season. So, with my coin I bought some blank music paper, and set the words of the Prayer to one

of my favorite Christmas melodies ~ "Traditions of Christmas ". I then offered a copy of my song to each of the Choir members, for a small donation to be returned to the church. We will be singing the Christmas "Our Father" at a future Mass.

Inspiring

· After much thought I decided to make an extra donation. Enclosed you'll find two coins.

· Made sticky buns and sold them at work.

· Hello, I have out grown these things and I thought someone might think these are helpful. (They are...will be donated to the annual coat drive next fall...thanks!)

- Using the coin for a few supplies, I painted a small watercolor picture of a lighthouse and sold it. I give the profit to St. Agnes.
- Using our baking and entrepreneurial talents received from God, we combined our coins to purchase ingredients to make, bake and sell delicious pies for the customers Holiday enjoyment. Enclosed is our combined treasure & profit.
- I substitute teach Silver Sneaker Class & the owner reduces my monthly fee. The reduction plus \$2.00 is my gift from using my talent.
- Dog sit for a friend.
- I knit slippers, baby hats, and children's sweaters and donate them to Senior Circle to distribute to needy children.
- My dollar multiplied with the test of not getting that extra morning treat as planned, an extra donation.
- Dear Baby Jesus,
I could not think of anything to invest my golden coin in that would give me a great return. So, I decided that the new boots I wanted that were on sale for half price would wait till next year. Happy Birthday.
- Talents: Ministering to the sick and elderly, Church Ministry. Contributions to the cause for defeating the Freedom of Choice Act, which would proliferate abortion; Gifts to the Women's Center at Christmas time; gifts to Salvation Army.
- Gave coin to a collector. Started knitting hats to give away.
- I donated my \$1.00 to Susie's Sweets, a local company that sells breads. They use a portion of their profits for missions and to fill local food pantries.
- I helped my sister sell Christmas ornaments.
- I made \$5.00 by feeding my Aunt Macy's dogs and taking them to the bathroom and making sure they had enough water.
- I babysat.
- I offered a 50/50 drawing at my families Thanksgiving gathering. The winner (my Mom) donated her "half" back to St. Agnes.
- I have combined my husbands and my money and gave it to a deserving person.
- I used my coin as a motivator for my talent of bargain shopping. I purchased ten pair of women's pajamas at Wal-Mart for \$36.00, a savings of \$95.60. I applied the coin to the \$36.00 price. I gave the pajamas to the Hilton House women's shelter in the hope they

will provide comfort to those who leave their home with only the clothes on their backs and that they may know the Lock Haven community cares about their plight. I have enclosed a donation to my parish for motivating me.

· A note to Father Jozef,

We were all present for my Mom's Memorial Mass, on Nov. 15th to celebrate her journey to heaven. We are happy and proud to be able to participate and make a donation to multiply this coin, and hopefully your campaign will be a success. Our prayers are with you and St. Agnes Parish Family.

· We put our money together to buy supplies to make pumpkin rolls! We sold them to our family. We made \$25.00 selling our pumpkin rolls.

· Made prayer shawl. Gave a gift to unsuspecting lady. Donated \$20.00 to the Church

· We pooled our money and purchased clothing for a disadvantaged family of five for Christmas. Thank-you.

· Gift to the Christ Child \$50.00

· Donated ham for Christmas dinner. Gave neighbors cookies & food. Donation made to Sri Lanka child for Christmas. Donation to Salvation Army. Took elderly to the doctors.

· I purchased beans and processed them and sold them. I also played in a video game tournament and the winnings were included here.

· I took the dollar added some money to it and bought the ingredients for a pie & then I sold the pie.

· Father,

We haven't done anything out of the ordinary. Our summer was busy going back & forth to Williamsport to visit and offer our love & support to a dear friend who has been fighting cancer for about 2 years. Right after Thanksgiving he lost the battle. He fought a brave fight. We had been friends for over 40 years. Our offering is in his honor. He was a good husband, father & grandfather. He is greatly missed by family & friends.

· Gave the dollar to a person in a nursing home.

· Bought a pair of mittens and donated to Dickey Elementary School.

· Extra donation in Thanksgiving for many Blessings.

· I built a cabinet for my future daughter-in-law.

· We have a child we adopted in Mexico that we take care of each month and have for 8 years. We decided to take our coin and we each added \$4.00 to it and sent extra money to our special friend Gabriella, who is now 8 years old.

· Used cooking talents to cook meals and goodies for friends & family.

· I have had the mentally challenged for all occasions for over 30years. I bake & give to three widows who do not cook.

· A young couple moved next door to us in Nov. They are from Colorado and have no close family here. Their baby boy was born 3 months premature and needs special care. We sent them some baked goods and a gift for the baby on Christmas.

· Had a movie night & charged \$1.00 per person.

· I made and sold Christmas ornaments.

· I bought Christmas bags, filled them with 7 dz. cookies (15 varieties) a small zucchini bread, home made candy-peanut brittle, turtles & peanut clusters. I sold six orders for \$20.00 each. All costs were donated.

· Did favors for people: driving person to the Mall, laundry, phone calls, fought traffic ticket for someone.

· Dear Reverend Kovacic

We had attended Mass at your church one Nov. Sunday and were impressed with your sermon and your churches' project...so I am enclosing a check for the money I tried to save from then to Jan. 6th. I loved the community spirit that we felt. Please keep up the good work. We need more Catholic churches like St. Agnes.

P.S. We were in the area for a PSU game...we also love Penn State!

· Donated toward the cost of diapers for the family of an ill child.

· Combined coins & added to them to purchase clothes for children & youth.

· We put our \$4.00 together and bought hot cocoa mix, cups and milk. We made hot cocoa and gave it to customers at our greenhouse and asked for donations. We turned our original into \$12.00.

· I asked my family, friends & co-workers to donate \$1.00 to help buy a goat for Heifer international-an organization that works worldwide to reinvigorate communities through livestock, training and "passing on the gift."

· I sold two pumpkin rolls.

· Made a wood sign & sold it.

· My talent is taking care of my two grand-cats.

· My talent is taking care of Mimi.

· My dollar and time and talent were multiplied several ways over this time period. First, as a member of Emmaus, we worked at collecting food and Christmas gifts to give to the needy for Christmas.

Personally, my 93 yr old nursing home resident had written a Christmas poem and wanted cards made and sent to 20 of her friends. I bought the material, made the card and paid the postage to send them for her.

My family adopted a needy family for Christmas, purchasing clothes and toys for 5 people.

My dollar grew a hundred's fold but not in monetary value. I was introduced to a young family with 3 small children; the youngest is 7 months old and suffering from cancer. I went to see the baby and wow what an eye opener. Here was this baby and others who have never had a good feeling about being in this world. All they knew was the safety and security and love while being in her mother's womb. How very fragile she was and I was at a loss of what to do for her. As a mom, I realized that holding her and offering her my love and prayers and also for her family, was the best gift I had to offer. Monetary gifts are great, but the gift God gave us is the best-Love ...

I also shared my faith with 12 people seeking to become members of the Catholic Church. The stories and struggles behind these people and why they have chosen to become Catholic are very interesting. It's rewarding to share my faith with them.

· We used our combined talents to help church organizations to better our church family. We also do what we can to support worthy organizations outside the church to better our communities.

· My sister, niece & myself made cookies together.

· Donated to the cost of diapers for the family of an ill child.

· Extra work

· Food & visits to a man and his family. He is fighting cancer. He is in his forties and lives separately from his family and is raising a son.

· My talents are: greeter, usher, and cantor

· We multiplied our treasure for the church.

· Gave Christmas plates with cookies-homemade candy to a neighbor, a friend, the mailman & papergirl. Here is my donation.

· Our prayer group has made a donation to the Right to Life organization. Also, I thank God for my gift and ability to do volunteer work.

· Because of a broken elevator, a certain person could not do the steps, so a friend & myself climbed the steps for them. (Delivering mail, paper, etc.) I offered my climbs for the Poor Souls.

- My talent is taking care of Mimi.
- Enclosed is \$20.00 which I earned using my Van Buren dollar. I cashed in grocery coupons & donated the same to the cause.
- Coin symbolizes to give more to charity in 2009. Also, we use my talents to sign up for lector. I was one previously for 12-13 years.
- I chose to make a donation for Christmas to those who are in need at this time.
- My talents are: Lector, Extraordinary Minister of the Eucharist, greeter and usher.
- Talents- I have a few. My greatest gifts(s) from God are the Holy Eucharist, His Mother, The Church, and My Family & Friends. I spent many hours caring for one of my dearest treasures, My Aunt, who has given much in her life, not only to me & mine, but everyone she meets. I will continue to care for her as long as she needs me. I'd like to share this: my youngest son always sends two or more cards for any occasion. Always a serious one, a tearjerker for Mom & always a comical one. For Christmas one of them was shaped like a gift box. The inscription: "Merry Christmas Mom. You gave me life & filled it with love. What an amazing gift. Thank-you Mom." I Love You, Dave And I love him back; as I do all my dear ones- yes even the lemons.
- I baked small banana, pumpkin & ginger breads. I gave some to a few shut-in people I knew and sold the rest for \$2.00 each
- Used some muscle to shovel snow for family & neighbors for free.
- Our families joined together and multiplied our coins by making decorative Christmas soap and selling them.
- I held a football pool based on the last week of the NFL season to raise \$100.00.
- Happy Birthday Lord Jesus Christ~
 Thank-you for my greatest joy in life, my wonderful and loving son. Please accept my offering of knitted dishcloths I made myself. I pray for peace, wisdom, guidance patience and the ability to improve myself.
 Love,
- My wife & I have combined our money and gave it to a deserving person.
- These are the tips from our jobs.
- Made Christmas cookies & shared with neighbors (no profit). Made crocheted scarves & sold (gave some away, too) Made \$10.00 profit.

· As a family we made some extra crafts and took them along to a craft show & sold them.

· I used the dollar and added some to buy a gift for a friend of mine. She is in extended care and not very mobile. I visit her and get her candy she loves. She has very little. We have been friends for 60years. I was 11 months old. She and her husband did many things for us as kids and I will be ever grateful to them for it.

· Our family performed a Guitar Hero Concert with their time & talents. Dad played the guitar, Mom made the snacks, and the children contributed by creating the tickets & posters, passing out the snacks & cleaning up, and collecting donations from the audience and last but not least Daisy the Dawg was in charge of security.

· Father Joseph,

Friday January 23,2009

I apologize for our belated gifts to the Christ Child. The Sunday morning that the velvet pouches were distributed among the congregation, my son and his family were visiting from Charlottesville, Va. The three bags enclosed (with mine) were mailed from Charlottesville to be returned to the manger. My pouch contains \$5.15 from my grandson, who resides locally. He had completed a number of holiday chores and wished to include all the money earned from those tasks as his gift to Baby Jesus. He and I agreed that I would quadruple his gift amount then add \$1.00 for his gold coin. He wanted to keep the coin as a remembrance of that special Mass shared with his cousins. We typically attend Immaculate Conception Church and did not visit St.Agnes on Epiphany Sunday to present our gifts. Though our journey has taken us much longer than the Three Wisemen, we give them now with an abiding sense of wonder, reverence, gratitude and love.

In Christ,