

From the desk of  
**MONSIGNOR ZENZ**



November 12, 2020

My brothers and sisters in the Lord,

This weekend we hear the familiar parable of the Talents. As you may know, our English usage of the word “talent” is based on today’s Gospel! In the Gospel era, a talent was the largest denomination of money; we have taken the word to mean skills and abilities. Ultimately, the Lord is not speaking about talents here in the sense of particular skills that would help one in sports or the marketplace but rather the *spiritual* gifts that God has planted within the hearts of every single person. Our spiritual gifts might include the ability to listen, to trust, to be generous and compassionate and to be grateful. Are we trying to develop these *spiritual* gifts? Do we give our spiritual abilities the same focus and concern that we do for other talents??

The tragedy of the parable centers on the third servant, the one who received one talent. The master knew and understood each of the servants and gave them resources appropriate to their abilities. This third character did nothing with his talent except bury it in the ground. Why? He was afraid. He did not want to disappoint the master so he simply hid his talent; he did not take the risk of trying to develop it. Many times when it comes to our spiritual life, we also do not take the risk of trying to go to a deeper stage of communion with the Lord and each other. We are often content to stay on a surface level and do not even try to open our mind and heart to ways that we know we could and should grow. This parable comes at a good time in the year: we are almost on the brink of Thanksgiving and we live at a time of pandemic and uncertainty. What spiritual talents do we need to get through these weeks that are coming? Are you developing a deeper sense of prayer and intimacy with the Lord? For what gifts are you grateful this year as we celebrate Thanksgiving? Are you grateful for *spiritual* gifts?

As Fr. Burke would say, “Something to think about!”

Your brother in the Lord,  
Msgr. John Zenz