

26th Sunday in Ordinary Time

By: Fr. Greg Ames

In an interview with a reporter who spent several days with him, Juan Taylor said, *I'm invisible to the world, but I do the people's dirty work.* Taylor has been homeless for 20 years; in rehab for alcoholism several times; and he can make as much as \$50 a day collecting discarded aluminum cans. He is a Vietnam Vet who has not seen his family in years, and realizes, he is lucky after all this time to still be alive. He found a discarded cell phone in the trash; it did not work, but the light still came on when you flipped it open. Fascinated, he held it to his ear, pretending to talk to someone, as people walking by laughed at a homeless guy on a cell phone. As the battery began to drain, Taylor told the reporter: *This phone makes me feel like someone.*

"...you received what was good during your lifetime, while Lazarus received what was bad."

The parable of the Rich Man and Lazarus appears only in Luke. It is the only parable where the characters have names; centuries after Jesus the rich man was named Dives when the story was told. The story of Dives and Lazarus has been told in art, in music and in poetry. The parable expresses a major theme of Luke's gospel; and if this were the only parable of Jesus we had, it could fully explain his mission and message. *There is a someone in every human person.* We may choose not to see or prefer to see something else: lazy, bum, user, crazy, waste of life. Jesus looks deeper and sees the someone. His ministry is about helping that someone come alive.

It might get us off the hook if we think the parable is not about us; if we think of Dive only as a rich, greedy corporate type with stock options and money markets galore. But the parable is not about the rich and poor. It is a parable about our accountability before God. As often as I hear this story, there are a few lines that always stand out and challenge our accountability, that say you are responsible before God.

Lying at this door Lazarus is not in the street, in a homeless shelter or living in the projects. He is at the door; you had to trip over him. In another part of the

Scripture, Jesus says, *Behold I stand at the door knocking.* We'd like to think Jesus arrive at our door all spruced up with a couple of angels in tow. But he comes as a person who has fallen through the cracks; the relative who annoys you, the person who is eating the peanut butter sandwich at TASK. In our busy lives, with our own problems, it is tempting to look away. The parable says we are responsible, not to first do something, but to be aware of who is lying at the door and not look away.

He would gladly have eaten the scraps The prophet Amos complains against the people who were too full, while others had nothing, and were not even grateful. What we throw away, what goes down the garbage disposal; can you image the horror of someone who is hungry seeing some scrap that could have been her meal? I say this not to make you feel guilty; but to instill a deeper sense of gratitude. Yes, we have our own deep hungers, but each not we get a meal, we sleep in a bed, the heat will work and no bombs will explode outside. Much of the world's problems are caused by an ungrateful spirit and an unfair distribution of the world's goods. Yes, maybe there is nothing we can do, but the parable says as Christians we are responsible to hold our leaders accountable.

Carried away by angels This is a tough parable that challenges us deeply, but there is good news. We are told, quite bluntly, that Dives dies, but Lazarus is carried away by angels. There is something touching and deeply poignant about the image. It helps us to see the good news in our own lives; when people-here in our own parish-understand their responsibility, understand they are accountable to God-and use their hands and hearts to become angels who carry others to safety. They are not to be admired. But imitated.

The cell phone is so common now, we take it for granted. But maybe as you use it this week, as the light comes on you might stop and look at that modern gadget, and think of this ancient parable, and realize that you are the someone who must be accountable to God.

READINGS OF THE WEEK

Amos 6:1-7

1 Timothy 6:11-16

Luke 16:19-31

September 29, 2013

紐約華埠顯聖容堂通訊
常年期第二十五主日
二零一三年九月二十二日

堂區活動

1. **顯聖容堂青年組(8年班 - 大學)** 本主日在禮堂舉行午餐聚會，共渡一個開心的下午。

2. **好消息！**

顯聖容堂堂區圖書站有一批**公教錄影DVD/VCD**供教友們借用。希望各位珍惜及善用。圖書站開放時間：每星期日十點半至下午一點。歡迎光顧。

3. **徵求義工!**

堂區圖書站急需義務值班員。服務時間為星期日上午十時半至下午一時。上星期日已有大量宗教DVD/VCD供應教友們借出，但需要有人負責登記及追蹤。有意服務者，請與沈修女聯絡。

4. **2014年彌撒意向登記書**將於10月8日(星期二)上午9:00開始接受登記。

5. **仁愛會舉辦兩日一夜朝聖:**

日期: 2013年10月13-14日-哥倫布日長週末

地點: 紐約上州 National Shrine of Our Lady of Mont Carmel

費用: 每人\$95 (3人或以上一房)
每人\$120 (2人一房)

費用包括: 車費，旅館及1個晚餐。有意者請速向陳清(917-892-7001)或陳麗娟(646-691-7581)報名。

善會活動

1. **仁愛會職員**本主日上午9時彌撒後於105摩士高街開會。

2. **仁愛會月會**下主日上午9:00彌撒後在學校禮堂舉行。

3. **聖母團 - 取消**下主日會議。

請為病患者祈禱:

馬長平神父
Lam Shu Gung

請為亡者祈禱:

李許寶順
朱伍美蓮
蔡漢強



託管財能

上週主日奉獻: \$ 1,962-
第二次奉獻: \$ 1,031-

2013年8月份自動轉帳奉獻:
\$ 6,330.88-

謝謝您的慷慨捐助! 歡迎加入堂區自動轉(ParishPay)奉獻。



本週 **彌撒酒餅** 是由

程心雄, 王錦文
為感恩而奉獻

每週活動

1. **明供聖體**-每週五上午8:00彌撒後至中午12:10彌撒前。

2. **聖母軍**-每週六下午5:00。

3. **教堂**-每週六下午2:00至5:00開放給各位祈禱或參觀。

4. **成人歌詠團** - 於每星期日下午2:00及星期三下午6:00練唱。



聖經分享小組

1. **成人粵語主日讀經分享**-每週四上午10:00至11:30在摩士高街105號舉行。

2. **國語聖經分享** - 每月第三主日上午10:45至中午12:00, 在摩士高街105號五樓舉行。

3. **生活聖言分享(粵語)** - 每月第一和第三主日下午1:00至2:30在摩士高街105號聚會。

4. **聖泉聖經分享(國語)** - 每月第二和第四主日上午10:30至中午12:00在摩士高街105號舉行。

5. **「信仰培育小組」(粵語)** - 每月第二個星期六下午2-4時在學校禮堂舉行。

6. **“父母與我”** - 每月第二主日在禮堂活動。時間是下午2-4時。