HOMILY — 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A
Nov. 14 - 15, 2026
Proverbs 31:10-13, 19-20, 30-31
1 Thessalonians 5:1-6 Matthew 25:14-30

My brothers and sisters, I welcome you with joy to this Eucharistic celebration.

Today, the Word of God (especially the gospel reading) speaks to us about one beautiful word: **TALENT**.

In the ancient **Greek** language, talent is called "**Talanton**." It meant a **heavy weight of money. In the plural, "Talanta."**

But in our Christian faith, a **talent means something deeper. It means a gift that God Himself has entrusted to you (us). God does not give to everybody the same. He gives to one five, to another two, to another one — but He gives to everyone something.**

Singing. Preaching. Teaching. Leadership. Writing. Hospitality. Playing football/soccer. Caring for children. All these are talents. They are not our own possession. They are God's gifts placed in our hands.

This is the heart of today's Gospel. Jesus tells us a parable of a master who goes on a journey. Before he leaves, he calls his servants and entrusts his property to them. That master is God. The journey is this life. And one day, He will return. We must live ready, using what God has given us (as we were told last Sunday, to be prepared all the time).

The two good servants in the parable did not hide what they received. They went, they worked, they traded, and they brought back double. And the master said to them the sweetest words in the whole Gospel: "Well done, good and faithful servant. Enter into the joy of your master."

But the third servant was afraid. He dug a hole and buried his talent. He returned it exactly as he received it. And he lost even that.

Brothers and sisters, let us pause for a moment and ask ourselves: **What have I buried?**

Many of us are not lazy - but we are afraid. Afraid to fail. Afraid to be laughed at. Afraid to begin. But fear is also a way of burying our talent.

My brothers and sisters, this is a humble reminder for us. **A talent that is not used is a talent that is lost. God asks us to be faithful, as we use our talents/gifts.**

That is why we say: "**Practice makes perfect**." A gift grows only when we use it. If we hide it, it dies.

I remember this from my own childhood. In our village, Kyabolokya Village in Uganda; as young boys, we discovered we had the talent of playing soccer. We formed ourselves into a team. We wanted to be champions, like the famous Brazilian players of my childhood times. Up to now, I still support Brazil.

But we learned a lesson. To become champions, we had to practice constantly. We had to keep physical fitness. And in our village, we became champions. We won trophies.

But when some of our players started dodging practice, our team stopped winning. The talent was still there, but because we did not use it, we lost the victory.

It is the same in spiritual life. If we do not practice our gift, we lose the blessing.

So today, I invite you: Identify what you can do well, and do it well for God and His people.

If you sing, like our choir here — and I tell you, they sing with passion and great zeal, my heart becomes joyful — they sing to make us feel the presence of God in the church.

If you are an usher, do it with love - and you will see many people willing to pray every Sunday.

If you are a teacher, teach with love.

If you are a leader in any capacity, lead by the example of Christ, with love and compassion.

If you are a parent, look after your family well.

If you have a business, show good customer care and offer quality service, and you will have more customers.

If you have plenty, be generous to the needy. In that way, you are increasing your blessings (as said in the first reading).

So let us not bury our talents. Let us use them in simplicity, in truth, and in love. And the Good Lord will multiply our blessings.

We ask Mother Mary and St. Bavo to pray for us, so that we may use our talents very well, and one day hear those words: "Well done, good and faithful servant."

Fr. Francis Mwanje
Pastor