

HOMILY 32ND SUN OT YRA 2017

I want you to imagine with me for just one minute that a distant relative of yours, that you do not know, died and left you a great deal of money. You are with me so far, aren't you? There are some conditions to the money. At the beginning of every day, \$86,400 will be deposited in your account. You can spend as much of the money as you want, or you can give it away, but you cannot withdraw it and put it in another account. At the end of the day, anything that is left goes away and you will never get it back. The next day you start with another \$86,400 until the money runs out, and you do not know how much is there. How many of you think you could spend the money or give it away? Now, let's get back to reality. At the beginning of every day, God gives you 86,400 seconds. You can spend them wisely, you can give them away to benefit someone else, you can do nothing, or you can do evil. The choice is yours, but at the end of the day they are gone. You cannot save them and you cannot get them back.

In the Gospel reading, Jesus tells us a parable. He tells us that the kingdom of heaven is like 10 virgins that took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. 5 were foolish and 5 were wise. The foolish did not take any oil so they were not prepared when the bridegroom came. The wise did have oil; they were prepared and entered the wedding feast. The foolish did not. Jesus is the bridegroom and the wedding feast is heaven. The Kingdom of Heaves starts here. It matters how we spend out time in this life. What we do in this life determines how we will spend eternity. So why were the wise women so stingy? Why didn't they share with the foolish women? What is important is how we spend our time, we cannot not get in on the coat tails of someone else..

How many of you think that you will have some warning before you die, some time to prepare? Maybe you will, but think about all of the terrorism in the world, the mass shootings, the people driving vehicles into crowds. Do you think they thought it was their last day? The reality is that 2,428 people per day die a sudden death in the US, 886,388 per year. These deaths are due to accidents, strokes, heart attacks, all kinds of death with no warning. So, maybe it is good to be prepared. And I do not think we have to be prepared for our own sudden death. What about the people in your life that you care about? They could die suddenly too.

Today I want you to think about ways that you can spend your 86,000 seconds wisely. First of all, if it has anything to do with stuff, I suggest to you that it is not very important. I want to remind you that when you die, someone is going to put a dumpster in your driveway and throw everything out. Not important. And if it about money, unless it is providing for dependents, it is not important. Most of us here today do not have enough money to really change people's lives. In fact, the few people I know who inherited a great deal of money had their lives change for the worse. It is all about the people in our lives. It is all about our relationships. I just want to mention a couple of thing today that you may want to consider, you may have other things that are way more important.

Christmas is coming and this may be your last or the last Christmas for a significant person in your life. Is there someone you need to forgive, reach out to, invite, try and reconcile with, recognize, appreciate? Are you waiting for someone else to do it, your spouse, your brother or sister? If they do, good for them, but you cannot ride through on their coat tails. And what about your last wishes? You need to pick a patient advocate that loves you to make decisions for you if you cannot make them yourself. Then you need to have the difficult discussion about what you want. I have sat with a lot of families before someone dies. Some

have had the conversation and it makes the decisions easier. Some are guessing what the people would have wanted, which makes it more difficult. And I am not talking about planning for your own death. Think about the people in your life that you are likely to have to make decisions for if they do not pick a patient advocate themselves. You are the one who is going to have to struggle through that decision. Maybe you want to initiate that difficult conversation. None of us know how much time we have left. How are you going to spend your 86,400 seconds today?