

Covenant Life

- Our next in-person Gathering will be in two weeks on Sunday, August 15th at 4pm continuing the pattern of meeting on the 2nd and 4th Sundays.
- Recommitting to our [covenant](#) is our 2022 priority and the coordinators are sharing about it. Please take time to listen to the sharings at the bottom of our homepage: GodsDelight.org.
- The Catholic Diocese of Dallas is having its next Diocesan Synod Listening Sessions with the Bishop entitled "Catholic Social & Moral Teaching & the Church in the World" on Saturday, August 20, 2022, from 2-5 pm, at Bishop Lynch High School. Click [here](#) to register.
- If you were unable to attend our last prayer meeting, you can listen to the audio [here](#), and read the Word Gift summary [here](#) or the transcript [here](#).
- Your ongoing financial support to the Community is sincerely appreciated. Please donate online [here](#) or mail your donations to P.O. Box 225008 Dallas, Tx 75222.

The readings today challenge us with the stark contrast between the world and God's call. In Paul's letter to the [Colossians](#) he redirects our attention from the things of the world to the things of heaven - specifically suggesting that we *"Put to death, then, the parts of you that are earthly: immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and the greed that is idolatry."*

These are easy words to read but so much harder to really live. The world, the flesh, and the devil are at work all around us, every day, all day, attempting to turn our attention away from God. I think that is why Paul uses such strong words *"Put to death"*, to emphasize the seriousness of this admonition.

The Church in her wisdom has discerned a [Gospel](#) reading that ties into this message perfectly. Jesus is asked to settle a human dispute and totally dismisses the question and responds to the listening crowd with the words *"Take care to guard against all greed, for though one may be rich, one's life does not consist of possessions."* Again, how easy is it to read these words - yet such a challenge to really live.

It is normal and natural to want a comfortable life...to insulate ourselves from calamity, to store up resources to be self-sufficient, to want things to be better and easier for our children...but Jesus has a warning against the accumulation of

possessions. His point for the crowd (and us of course) is so vitally important that He follows this response with the parable of the rich fool. Can we identify with the rich fool? Let us read the words again and ponder our choices. Where are we storing up treasures?

Laurie and I are attending the first CHARIS conference in the United States. Recall that Pope Francis merged the Catholic Fraternity and the International Catholic Charismatic Renewal Services organizations together into CHARIS to support the worldwide growth of the Charismatic Renewal. It is a blessing to be here and see so many Charismatics across different languages, cultures, and movements coming together to praise God together. Last night we participated in a Eucharistic Procession from the convention center to the Cathedral. It was a stark example of Jesus' Gospel words. Seeing Jesus triumphantly proclaimed and revered through the streets of downtown Providence Rhode Island was a visible sign of turning our attention away from the world (and its skyscrapers) to Jesus and the joy visible in the song and unity of the hundreds who walked the journey together praising and worshipping Him!

Sisters and brothers, my exhortation today is that we read these words and not just pass over them but take time discerning any ways we might be like the fool in the parable and live our life today with eyes fixed on heaven and bringing love and unity to every person we meet.

Let us pray. "Lord, God, you know my desire to put to death everything that is in me that is not of You, especially greed and the temptations to isolate myself from Your will and calling. Today I recommit myself to the things above, to my dependance on Your providence, to turning from the world, my flesh, and the evil one - to a life of total surrender and dependance on You. Jesus, I trust in You. You take care of everything! I love you. Amen."

God Bless,
David