

- More than a week after his death, our country is still reeling over the assassination of Charlie Kirk, who made a name for himself by taking on the lies constantly peddled by the left, boldly proclaiming common sense truths that our faith has always championed.
- In a country that values its freedoms, especially freedom of speech, it's infuriating that so many on the left continue to demonize Kirk, as if his death was his own fault because he was a firebrand. The intellectual dishonesty is astounding.
- But what are we to expect of people who believe that killing an unborn child is a sacred right, that people can determine their own sex, that divorce should be easy, and that homosexual acts should be guarded with the very same protections as traditional marriage?
- Mark well, my friends, these are lies from the father of lies, and so important are these lies to those who peddle them that some of them are even willing to kill for them.
- Kirk's untimely death reminds me of what happened 9 years ago this month when Mother Teresa was canonized a saint.
- In the wake of her very predictable canonization, many people were publicly critical of this heroically charitable woman, whose work with the poor made her famous throughout the world and even won for her a Nobel Peace Prize.
- Mother's detractors' biggest problem wasn't how she managed large sums of money given to her religious order or how she evangelized those whom she was serving, which were often mentioned in their lists of grievances against the saint.
- The biggest bone of contention Mother Teresa's detractors had was that she was a fearless defender of human dignity and was forthright in upholding the Church's teachings on important issues such as abortion, contraception, and divorce.
- In true charity Mother Teresa did more than just feed and care for the materially poor and destitute. She brought the light of truth to the spiritually poor, for she knew that poverty comes in many shapes and sizes.
- Indeed, Mother knew that the poorest people in this world are those who do not know Christ and are enmeshed in deadly sin.
- And for those souls who desire the darkness of evil, who are the enemies of God and His Church, anyone who proclaims the truth about God and about the dignity of the human person will always be a stumbling block. And that Mother Teresa was, and Charlie Kirk, too.
- Today's readings call us to think about the poor and about stewardship.
- Certainly, caring for the poor in our midst is integral to living our Catholic faith. Of the 7 Corporal Works of Mercy (which hopefully we've been trying to practice more earnestly in this Jubilee year), 4 deal directly with alleviating the needs of the materially poor.
- So, if we hope to be Catholic in the fullest sense, we cannot ignore the poor, but we must do our best to care for their needs as our means and abilities allow.
- With regard to stewardship, which is one of the key themes running through today's Gospel, we must learn how to make good use of God's many blessings to us, and to do so to render glory and thanks to God.
- Stewardship in a Catholic sense is comprehensive. It should cover every aspect of our lives, not just our finances. You see, every thing that we have is a gift from God: our material possessions, our talents and abilities, and even things like our intelligence and our fertility.

- Our Lord's expectation is that we first recognize that everything we have has come from Him. Once we recognize this, our Lord expects us to determine how best we can glorify Him by being good stewards of the gifts He has given us.
- Of course, there's more to stewardship than just giving of our time, talent, and treasure. God also expects us to be good stewards of our faith.
- If we consider those who do not know Christ as Savior, or those who have rejected Him, to be the poorest people in the world, then it makes so much sense that we should be willing to share the riches of our faith with them and to counter the lies of the evil one.
- Being a good steward of our faith means two things. First, it means that God expects us to grow in holiness through our practice of the Catholic faith. He expects us to die to self, to live a sacramental life, and to grow in virtue over the course of our lives.
- The Gospel teaches us today that our character is revealed and shaped by the little things we do as much as by the big things. If over the course of our lives we can learn to be faithful in little matters, we will likely perform well when our faith is tested in bigger matters.
- No one becomes a saint overnight. Mother Teresa began on her own path toward sainthood when she determined as a young woman to never refuse anything God asked of her.
- As she practiced this virtue of obedience throughout her life in small ways, it became easier for her to be heroically obedient to God in larger matters later in life.
- And the same is true for us. If we try to be virtuous and holy in all of the little matters of life, we will have a better chance of being saintly whenever our faith is tested in a serious matter.
- Secondly, God also expects us to share our faith with others, to be good witnesses to others, so that they, too, might come to know and love Him.
- One of the very best ways we can do this is by speaking and defending the truth of our Faith.
- Perhaps some of you remember 30 years ago when Mother Teresa spoke at the National Prayer Breakfast in Washington, DC, when she shared the stage with Bill & Hillary Clinton and spoke so humbly yet fearlessly about the scourge of abortion.
- I was living in Washington at the time, and I remember being so edified by Mother's courage. Here she was speaking the bare truth about abortion in front of some of the most ferocious defenders of abortion in our world, and she was as meek and humble as a lamb.
- Even though the whole world was watching, Mother Teresa was unshakeable in her faith, and she was courageous in sharing it.
- Frankly, we need more people just like her and even like Charlie Kirk – people willing to be faithful defenders of truth, even when publicly ridiculed.
- My dear brothers and sisters, our readings today call us to be good stewards of all that God has given us so that we might serve Him rather than the mammon of this world.
- We do this best when we seek to serve the poor and the needy in our midst, especially those who are poor in faith.
- May we always be generous stewards of our time, talent, and treasure, and even more fearless and faithful stewards of the riches of our Catholic faith.
- St. Teresa of Calcutta, pray for us!