LIVING FAITH

25th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME SEPTEMBER 20, 2026

THE GOSPEL FOR TODAY—Matthew 20:1-16

"The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire labourers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the labourers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the market-place; and he said to them, "You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right." So they went. When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, "Why are you standing here idle all day?" They said to him, "Because no one has hired us." He said to them, "You also go into the vineyard." When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, "Call the labourers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first." When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, saying, "These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat." But he replied to one of them, "Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?" So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

REFLECTING ON THE GOSPEL

Our first reaction to this Parable of the Labourers in the Vineyard is probably, "That's not fair!" The wisdom we have inherited teaches us that you get what you work for; if you want something, you have to earn it; you are rewarded according to your efforts. But *our* wisdom is not always *God's* wisdom.

We often feel threatened when our world of values is invaded by someone who turns them upside down. One of those 'someones' in Jesus, who teaches that God doesn't work according to mathematical calculations; God works from the fullness of a divine heart. We already know that "the heart has its reasons, which reason does not know...." (Blaise Pascal) How much more so with God!

This parable is about God's magnanimity, God's generosity. God's love is not calculating, looking out for number one. God's unconditional love and generosity can make us furious, especially when it's directed toward someone whom we consider underserving. But God's ways are not our ways.

TALKING WITH FAMILY AND FRIENDS

- Who would be the day labourers left standing in the marketplace at the end of the day? Why would they have been passed over when others were hired right off the bat?
- If you were one of those hired near the end of the day, how would you feel when you got your pay? Why would you feel that way?
- If you were one of the labourers hired at the beginning of the day, how would you feel when you got your pay? Why would you feel that way?
- What if you were the landowner in the parable? Would you have acted as he did?

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The Workers in the Vineyard

'These men who were hired last worked only one hour,' they said, 'and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the work and the heat of the day.' Matthew 20:12 (NIV)

Each number represents a letter of the alphabet. Substitute the correct letter for the numbers to reveal the coded words.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
T	O	J	Z	H	F	A	D	S	U	E	I	N	X	Y	V	L	W	Q	B	R	P	K	C	G	M

1. 25-11-13-11-21-2-10-9 _____
2. 18-2-21-23-11-21-9 _____
3. 6-12-21-9-1 _____
4. 10-13-6-7-12-21 _____
5. 16-12-13-11-15-7-21-8 _____
6. 26-2-13-11-15 _____
7. 5-2-10-21 _____
8. 25-21-10-26-20-17-11 _____
9. 5-12-21-11-8 _____
10. 17-7-9-1 _____

VINEYARD	UNFAIR	WORKERS	GRUMBLE	HIRED
LAST	GENEROUS	FIRST	MONEY	HOUR

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Annual Collection for the Needs of the Church in Canada - September 26-27, 2026

The Collection for the Needs of the Church in Canada will take place next weekend (Sept. 26-27). When you give, your offering supports the mission of our diocese and joins the gifts of Catholics across the country in supporting the shared work of the Bishops of Canada.

Together, this support makes possible work that no single diocese or eparchy could accomplish alone - from providing catechetical resources for families, young people and parishes, to promoting respect for human life and the dignity of every human person, and accompanying migrants and refugees.

Your gift helps strengthen the Church here at home and supports its mission across Canada. Please give prayerfully and generously next weekend. To donate online, visit cccb.ca/donate.

Holy God, whose Spirit hovered over the waters at the beginning, we gather as part of your community of all creation, thirsty for your grace. We give thanks for the gift of water, the veins of our common home, that sustains the cedar and the whale, the pasture and the city. We are grateful for the local waters that nourish our homelands and our fellow creatures. We give thanks that in your well-watered garden, every drop is a sacred testament to your love.

Yet, we confess that we have treated this gift as a mere commodity. We have choked the seas with our waste and watched the warming tides rise in judgment. We lament the cracked earth of the drought-stricken and the salty tears of the climate refugee. Melt our frozen hearts, O God, and let the waters of repentance flow.

Lord of all Life, you promised that wherever the river flows, everything shall live. Stir in us a calling to care for the waters — to protect the watershed, defend the rights of water, and honor the dignity of the thirsty. May your Word be a spring within us, gushing forth for the healing of the nations. May God our Father who brought water from the rock sustain us in the desert. May Christ our Lord who is Living Water refresh us for the work of restoration. And may the Holy Spirit carry us on currents of grace until justice rolls down like waters and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

Amen

FEASTS THIS WEEK
THE JESUIT MARTYRS
SEPTEMBER 26
ST. JEAN DE BREBEUF, ST. ISAAC JOGUES AND COMPANIONS

The eight North American martyrs, also known as the Canadian Martyrs, the Jesuit Martyrs of North America or the Martyrs of France, included six priests and two lay brothers. They were heroic members of the Society of Jesus who were martyred in North America as they served the Huron, the Iroquois and the Mohawk First Nations people. Five of the eight North American martyrs were put to death in what is now Canada, and three of them in New York State. There is a shrine to the United States' martyrs at Auriesville in New York, and there is a shrine to the Canadian martyrs at Fort Saint Mary near Midland, Ontario. The names of the eight North American martyrs are:

- Saint Rene Goupil, a lay brother martyred in 1642 in New York State,
- Saint Isaac Jogues, a priest, martyred in 1646 in New York State,
- Saint John de Lalande, a lay brother, martyred in 1646 in New York State,
- Saint Anthony Daniel, a priest, martyred in Canada in 1648,
- Saint John de Brebeuf, a priest, martyred in Canada in 1649,
- Saint Charles Garnier, a priest, martyred in Canada in 1649,
- Saint Noel Chabanel, a priest, martyred in Canada in 1649,and
- Saint Gabriel Lalemant, a priest, martyred in Canada in 1649.

Photo: Stained glass window of the Jesuit Martyrs, by Gerard Earley of Dublin, in the Basilica-Cathedral of St. John the Baptist, 1955.

Photo by Robert and Lynn Young Photography, 2018