

# Impact

NOVEMBER 2017

*Bring faith to life. Find life in faith.*

## IMPACT THIS MONTH

NOVEMBER 1 & 2

### All Saints and All Souls

The feasts of All Saints and All Souls celebrate those who have gone before us in faith. We recognize those who lived saintly lives and pray for those who have died.

Who inspires you to live and grow in faith?

November 23

### Thanksgiving

Thanksgiving is a perfect opportunity to reflect on your blessings and to share with those who are in need.

For what are you most grateful this year? What will you share in grateful response?

## WHAT REALLY MATTERS?

*"The greatest among you must be your servant."*

In the month of November, the Gospels call us to focus on the ultimate things of life: Meaning. Purpose. Eternity. We are reminded that what really matters to God is not what is always viewed as important in the world. While we might measure a person's worth by their wealth, influence, power, or prestige, Jesus has a much different gauge of importance. Ultimately, what matters in the eyes of God is what we have done with our lives, talents, and resources, and how we have used what we have in service of others.

## WHATEVER YOU DO FOR THE LEAST ONES

*"Whatever you did for one of the least brothers of mine, you did for me."*

As Jesus neared the end of his earthly ministry, he drew his disciples to himself to talk about what really matters in life. In the final chapters of the Gospel of St. Matthew,

from which we read this month, Jesus tells us to be ready for Christ's return, and explains that we will be judged on how we have treated others, especially those most in need: "I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me, ill and you cared for me, in prison and you visited me....Whatever you did for one of the least brothers of mine, you did for me."

## BRINGING THIS HOME

It is the time of the year when families gather for special meals; parishes collect food and clothing for the poor; and co-workers come together socially. At times, the gatherings are filled with love. Sometimes, tension or disagreement mark such moments. Stay focused on what really matters as you join with family and friends this season. Go out of your way to serve others with a glad and thankful heart, and know that in doing so, you are fulfilling your call as a follower of Jesus Christ. We will offer practical ideas for bringing faith home, and invite your thoughts about this through our new Everyday Impact blog and Facebook page. Use the link below to connect, explore, and share.

Keep Impact alive throughout the month: [www.CatholicLifeandFaith.net/Everyday-Impact](http://www.CatholicLifeandFaith.net/Everyday-Impact)

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## CALLED TO RETURN WITH INCREASE

**“Set your stakes on great ideals, the ideals that enlarge the heart, the ideals of service that make your talents fruitful.”** Pope Francis, 2013

On the surface, the parable of the talents, which we hear on November 19, is a story about three servants who are charged with the care of their master’s money. Like all parables, however, the story Jesus tells has a much deeper meaning. **It is a story of who we are as people who have been entrusted with much – life, gifts, talents, and resources.** In the parable, two of the servants multiply their master’s riches, while one buries his talent, returning it as it was to the master upon his return. While the one who buried his talents is called wicked and lazy, those who increased what was entrusted to them are regarded as “good and faithful servants.”

**Clearly, the master intends for us to use what we have been given and use it well, to make it fruitful and return it with increase to the Lord.** “Each will be measured by the standard of his or her individual vocation. Each has received a different “sum”—a unique mix of talents, opportunities, challenges, weaknesses and strengths, potential modes of service and response—on which the Master expects a return. He will judge individuals according to what they have done with what they were given.” (SDR, p. 20)



How do we multiply what we have been given? By **giving it away.** This is what Jesus perfectly models and what we are to be about. Jesus emptied himself for the sake of all. He shows us that such giving is the way of the kingdom of God. Pope Francis helps us reflect on this in our own lives: “In this period of crisis today, it is important not to turn in on ourselves, burying our own talent, our spiritual, intellectual, and material riches, everything that the Lord has given us; but rather to open ourselves, to be supportive, to be attentive to others. Set your stakes on great ideals, the ideals that enlarge the heart, the ideals of service that make your talents fruitful. Life is not given to us to be jealously guarded for ourselves, but is given to us so that we may give it in turn.” (April 24, 2013)

**What talent, spiritual, intellectual, and material riches have been entrusted to you? How do you use your talents and gifts in your daily life? What material resources do you have that others need?**

**In what ways do you make your gifts fruitful by sharing, service, and caring for others? How might you challenge yourself to more fully return with increase to the Lord all that has been entrusted to you?**

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