

HOMILY SUGGESTIONS

If you are not giving the homily, please forward this to the assigned homilist.

Matthew 21:33-43

In today's Gospel, a landowner plants a vineyard, plants a hedge around it, digs a wine press, constructs a tower, and ends up having to send his son to attempt to obtain the harvest. But the son is killed by the tenants in charge of maintaining the vineyard while the landowner was on a journey.

This parable serves as a foreshadowing of the Passion. God gives us everything, even his Son, and do we return anything back to him?

God the Father has prepared everything for us. Do we willingly give him anything in return? How can we give him a return?

One way we can give him a return is by serving Him through the poor, for he tells us just a little later in the Gospel of Matthew that "you did it to me". This weekend marks Catholic Charities of Eastern Oklahoma's Annual Appeal.

Catholic Charities helps our neighbors across the diocese with basic needs such as food, dental care and pregnancy care and end-of-life care...then they take it further by providing adult education, counseling, transitional living for pregnant women, single mothers, and their children, disaster outreach and more. They serve those who come to them for help without regard to race, nationality, creed or religion. And they serve with the mission of being Christ's merciful love to those who suffer. This work changes lives, like the life of...(pick one or two)

Grover, whose dream of an education was something he thought might never happen. With the help of Catholic Charities Adult Education program, he now has his diploma AND hopes and dreams for a solid future.

Keisha, who just a few months ago was living in a tent...pregnant and alone. With the support of Catholic Charities Madonna House, she and her new baby girl, Journey, are on a path to a strong future together.

Gerald, whose house burned in a fire and couldn't get the help he needed. With the assistance of Catholic Charities Disaster Outreach, he now has the resources he needs to live comfortably while his home is rebuilt.

This year's theme is Your gift. Their hope. Your gift is a path. Your gift is a future. Your gift is a restoration. Your gift is a blessing.

God has given us everything. He has entrusted us as stewards of his good gifts and invites us to make a return to Him. We can respond to this invitation by serving Him through the poor and I invite you today to consider doing so by supporting Catholic Charities' Annual Appeal.

(Feel free to share any of the impact numbers from the next page during your homily.)

The impact of your *generosity.*

5.84 MILLION POUNDS OF FOOD distributed across Eastern Oklahoma in the past year

3 MILLION POUNDS OF FOOD provided to **37,606 HOUSEHOLDS** at The Market at Catholic Charities since it opened in April 2022

We've seen a **30% INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF CLIENTS SERVED DAILY** since The Market at Catholic Charities opened

On average, the cost of purchasing food from the Food Bank has **TRIPLED IN PRICE SINCE 2019**

3,968 HOUSEHOLDS obtained basic needs assistance through our Emergency Assistance program

279 PEOPLE received end-of-life care at Porta Caeli House

200 STUDENTS received the gift of Adult Education & **23 STUDENTS** earned their high school diplomas

1,174 DENTAL PATIENTS received care worth **\$932,690**

126 NEW BABIES BORN through our pregnancy care clinic

29 MOMS & 38 CHILDREN found a secure place to learn and grow at Madonna House & St. Elizabeth Lodge

493 CASES were worked by Immigration Legal Services

124 ADULTS & CHILDREN received counseling services