Homily for the 11th Sunday in Ordinary Time 2026 Year A

"What you have received without charge, give without charge."

Sometimes the Gospel, with staggering simplicity, puts before us an important rule of life that is so clear and simple that it brooks no argument.

For example, "Do unto others as you would have them do to you."

In today's Gospel we have another, "What you have received without charge, give without charge."

That is a very timely reminder in our cost-conscious society that not everything has a price tag. Sometimes some things are free, and that the freedom in which we receive them imposes upon us the obligation, in generosity and perhaps gratitude, to pass them on to others without charge or profit.

One such free gift that springs to mind is life itself. Having freely received the gift of our life, our existence, there is therefore the obligation to transmit and preserve, enrich, and improve the quality of life to others.

The Commandments expressed this in, "Thou shalt not kill", and "Honour thy Father and thy Mother."

It can also be expressed in the Vocation of Parenthood.

Genuine love and concern are gifts freely received. No human personality can have a healthy growth and development unless it is in them.

Our parents love us, our husbands or our wives love us. Conscious of the free gift of their love we are affirmed that we are valuable and lovable in somebody else's sight. For the follower of Christ there is therefore the obligation not to clasp all of that love selfishly to oneself, but knowing the value of love we should share it with others.

Again, the Commandments "Honour thy Father and thy Mother", "Thou shalt not kill", and "Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour" confirm this. Love received has in turn to be freely given, given in a worthy and faithful manner, and to a worthy object of our love.

Our intellect, intelligence, and our capacity to think, is also freely given. It is given to us to appreciate and understand all that is noble, beautiful, and true. The followers of Christ will always have the obligation to pass the fruits of knowledge and experience on.

The Commandment “Thou shalt not steal” expresses aspects of this.

Of course, there is the free gift of Faith, that capacity to respond in a generous way, often unseen, to the mysterious hunger for the One True God that gnaws away at the deepest part of our inmost being.

The Commandments “Thou shalt have no other gods before me”, and “Thou shalt not make false idols” express this.

In the giving freely of life, love, truth, and faith to others our reserves are never depleted, for there is another of Christ’s simple maxims holds true, that “It is in giving that you receive”.

In sharing in and in enriching the life of others, our own lives are enriched and enhanced.

In expressing love to others, we are loved in return and receive love.

In sharing our faith, our own faith is deepened.

Christ came that we might have life to the full. A greater part of that fullness for the Christian is guaranteed by freely giving of what he has freely received.

In much simpler terms the follower of Christ in the important things does not count the cost.