Fr. Romeo Evangelista Homily
Sunday, November 15, 2026
33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time
Cycle A

There was a wealthy businessman who was showing a friend around his beautiful estate. Pointing to his enormous house, his expensive cars, and his vast property, he proudly declared, “Everything you see belongs to me. I worked hard for all of this.” His friend quietly asked, “And how long will all of this belong to you?” The businessman laughed. “As long as I live, of course!” His friend smiled and replied, “Then perhaps you are not really the owner.” “You are simply taking care of these things until someone else takes over.”

My dear friends, there is a truth we often forget: We spend much of our lives acquiring things that we can never permanently possess. We work hard to earn money, build houses, establish careers, and accumulate possessions. But eventually, we must leave everything behind.

And this brings us to the powerful message of today’s gospel: We are not the owner. We are the steward. Jesus tells us about a master who entrusted his wealth to three servants before leaving on a

journey. The master did not give away ownership of his wealth. He entrusted it to his servants. The money remained his, but the servants were responsible for managing it. The first two servants understood their responsibility. They invested what they received and made it fruitful. But the third servant buried his talent in the ground. He preserved what was entrusted to him, but failed to use it for its intended purpose. His mistake was treating stewardship as mere safekeeping rather than responsible service.

And perhaps this is also our mistake. We often speak about: my money, my house, my talents, my achievements, my time, my life. But how much of what we call ours is truly ours? Everything we possess is temporary. Everything we receive is entrusted. We did not create our own lives. We did not choose the families into which we were born. We did not manufacture the abilities with which we were blessed. Everything we have is ours to use, but ultimately belongs to God.

This does not mean that personal ownership is wrong. It means that ownership carries responsibility. Our blessings are not simply privileges to enjoy. They are opportunities to serve. We must

understand something essential about stewardship: What God places in our hands is never meant to remain only in our hands.

And this challenges the way we live. If God has blessed us with wealth, how much of it becomes a blessing to others? If God has entrusted us with authority, have we used it to serve or merely to control? If God has given us time, how much of it have we offered to someone who needs our presence? Because stewardship is not simply about money. Stewardship is about the way we use our entire lives.

One day, we will leave behind everything we possess and everything we have achieved. But the love we have shared, the people we have helped, and the goodness we have brought into the world will have lasting significance.

Remember: We are not the ultimate owner of what we possess. We are the steward of what God has entrusted to us.

And the true measure of stewardship is not how much we keep, but how faithfully we use God's gifts for the good of others. For in the end, we will not be judged simply by what we received, but by what we did with what was entrusted to us.

And may we all hear Him say: “Well done, my good and faithful servant. Come, share your master’s joy.”