

PASTOR'S CORNER



Who, then, is the faithful and prudent steward whom the master will put in charge of his servants to distribute the food allowance at the proper time?

Peter asks Jesus if his parable about waiting for the master to return with loins gird and lamps lit is meant for everyone or just for the twelve. Jesus' response is to say that it is for everyone, but indeed there will be special expectations for those he puts in charge. And *much will be required of the person entrusted with much, and still more will be demanded of the person entrusted with more.*

This is why it is so important to pray for our leaders in the Church – why we pray especially for the Pope and for our Bishops at every Mass. A great deal has been entrusted to them: the shepherding of all the souls in the world and in our archdiocese, respectively. ‘

No one in their right mind, understanding the expectations of Jesus Christ and understanding what is required of *the faithful and prudent steward* would ever seek leadership in the Church apart from the clear call of God and the discernment of the Church. The priest, the Bishop, the Pope, places himself in tremendous moral danger for the service of others and must remain entirely dependent upon Christ in order to know his will and *to make preparations and act in accord with his will.* They must imitate and stand in the place of the Master who *girds himself, has the servants recline at table, and proceeds to wait on them.* This is the image of the heavenly banquet and the image of the Eucharist as the priest stands in the person of Jesus Christ who feeds the people with his very self.

May we offer prayers for all our shepherds to grow in this obedience and be shown as *faithful and prudent stewards*, that they may be guarded from the evil one, *make preparations and act in accord with God's will*, and be able *to distribute for us the food allowance at the proper time.*

In Christ, through Mary,

Fr. Dominic David Maichrowicz, OP