

Ownership and Stewardship of Time

Dear parishioners and friends,

The slowdown and fewer activities during the COVID-19 epidemic afforded us the opportunity to become more aware of our overextended commitments, our frenzied activities and hopefully how our lives could improve: more sleep, time to read, time to reflect, time to play, lower stress, time to bring order into our homes. We have all said, "What happened to the time?" "Where has the time gone?" "I just don't have time to . . ." These statements are part of a mentality which is inconsistent with living out our Faith. We don't say "What happened to my money? What happened to my house? What happened to my health? What happened to my relationships?" without being mindful of the care we give them. We actively care for these and know that we are accountable to God for tending to them.

Time. It doesn't belong to us but to God. "Blessed be the name of God forever and ever, for wisdom and power are His. He causes the changes of the times and seasons." Dan 2:21-22 God is Lord of time, and we are dependent on Him. To spend time with someone means to give that person part of my life and so time is extremely important. This is the reason we commit our time to God and follow His words in its use. But time can also be wasted and misused as before the Flood (Gen 6-7), and when Felix put off an opportunity to believe (Acts 24:25).

Our responsibility is to make the most of our time by using it wisely. We're instructed to, "Watch carefully then how you live, not as foolish persons but as wise, making the most of the opportunity, because the days are evil." Eph 5:16 Wise use of time includes spending time with God and His Church. It includes time with family, friends, and neighbors—being there for them and by right living mirroring Jesus Christ. Meaningful work, rejuvenating recreation, and physical exercise are part of good stewardship of the time given to us.

Since God is Lord of life and time, we cannot remain unconcerned about how we use it. This truth prompts us to pray and study His Word. Through the Scriptures, God shares with us the principles of how to use time as Divine Providence wants for us. We need to ponder the principles of good stewardship of time and listen to the Lord.

Next week, I will begin to share some principles for the good use of time.

Respectfully,
Fr. Kuss