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**At Home Program**

**Week # 1 September 17, 2023**

*“Prayer for me is an outburst from the heart.” – Saint Therese of Lisieux*

**Read Gospel(see below) …The Workers in the Vineyard…** Matthew 20:1 – 16

1 “The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out at dawn to hire laborers for his vineyard.

2 After agreeing with them for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard.

3 Going out about nine o’clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace,

4 and he said to them, ‘You too go into my vineyard, and I will give you what is just.’

5 So they went off. [And] he went out again around noon, and around three o’clock, and did likewise.

6 Going out about five o’clock, he found others standing around, and said to them, ‘Why do you stand here idle all day?’

7 They answered, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You too go into my vineyard.’

8 When it was evening the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, ‘Summon the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and ending with the first.’

9 When those who had started about five o’clock came, each received the usual daily wage.

10 So when the first came, they thought that they would receive more, but each of them also got the usual wage.

11 And on receiving it they grumbled against the landowner,

12 saying, ‘These last ones worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us, who bore the day’s burden and the heat.’

13 He said to one of them in reply, ‘My friend, I am not cheating you.[\*](https://bible.usccb.org/bible/matthew/20#48020013-1) Did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage?

14Take what is yours and go. What if I wish to give this last one the same as you?

15 [Or] am I not free to do as I wish with my own money? Are you envious because I am generous?’

16 Thus, the last will be first, and the first will be last.”

**Write Gospel Reflection…**(answer these questions **OR** write a summary of your own)

In Sunday’s Gospel, we see the vineyard owner hiring workers and at the end of the day paying all the same wage regardless of how many hours were worked. We may see injustice in this. That’s not fair, we may think. God loves all of us because all of us are precious to Him. He freely lavishes His love on us whether we have followed him for years or just a few days.

How do you lavish love on those in your family? In your community? On strangers? Is there someone in your life, at your school or work who doesn’t get lavished with love? How can you change that?

**Gifted With The Spirit Lesson # 1…Called By the Holy Spirit (pages 1 – 3)**

If you are writing in the packet, extra paper should be used to write answers where there is no designated form.

1. How do you think Jesus would have answered these questions:
   1. Who taught you a valuable life lesson, and what was it?
   2. Where is your favorite spot to go to think or to be alone?
2. Complete Activity 1 on page 2...”What it means to be a follower of Jesus.”
3. Using pages 2 and 3, answer the following questions:
   1. What is a sacrament?
   2. What are the Sacraments of Initiation?
   3. Write 3-5 sentences about how the reception of the sacraments has changed.