

**Fr. Nick Dant's Homily, Saint Matthew Catholic Church, Indianapolis**  
**Twenty-Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Oct. 20-21, 2018, Cycle B**

The word "Gospel" means "good news," and the good news we hear Jesus proclaim this weekend is that he has come to serve us, and we not to serve him. He has come to give his life as a ransom for many, that we all might have life. For those wishing to be His followers, Jesus invites us to follow him in his life of service to others. In fact, Jesus teaches us that true greatness lies in being the servant or slave of all.

All along in Mark: Gospel Jesus had been teaching his disciples that the son of man must suffer much, be persecuted and finally be put to death; and those who want to be his followers must take up their cross and walk in his footsteps, the disciples, however, never really seem to get it. They seem to have carefully cultivated a chronic hearing impediment when it came to listening to Jesus explain what his mission as Messiah was all about. When John and James ask for the top spots of greatness next to Jesus' throne in glory, the rest of the disciples become indignant, all of them fall all over themselves to get the greatest spots in God's Kingdom.

The disciples' continual misunderstanding leads Jesus to try to make clear, once again, just where true greatness lies:

"...whoever wishes to be great among you will be your servant; whoever wishes to be first among you will be the slave of all."

Being great means laying our lives down, our lives in service for the many as the Son of Man did and does!

For the last few weeks, in our stewardship appeal at St. Matthew, we have been reflecting on the spirituality of stewardship. Stewardship is all about using my blessing of time, talent, and monetary resources in services to others. "Practically speaking, for most of us, the news by which we live lives in service to others is through our parish. We have now arrived at commitment Sunday in our parish where we are giving each family and household an opportunity to renew your sacrificial commitment to support the mission of St. Matthew to be of service – to help St. Matthew to continue to answer the call of Jesus to love and serve. Each household by now should have received a letter from me, the parish stewardship report, and your stewardship commitment card. If you do not have your commitment card with, or did not receive one, please find extra in the pews.

We are asking everyone to put their completed commitment card in the offertory basket when it comes around. If you do not have your commitment card with you, please fill out one of the commitment cards in the pew (you will find pens in the pews) and either place in the offertory basket, or give to an usher as you leave. In closing I want to thank everyone for their generosity together that enables St. Matthew to continue the Mission Jesus has charged us with.