

# Dear Padre,

**A friend sent me a copy of *The Catholic Worker* newspaper. It was founded by one of his heroes, Dorothy Day. What can you tell me about her?**

**D**orothy Day was born in Brooklyn, New York, in 1897. She finished high school at age sixteen and joined the Socialist Party in 1914 as a college student. She converted to Catholicism in 1927.

During the Great Depression, Dorothy's commitment to the poor deepened. In 1932 she met Peter Maurin, with whom she founded the Catholic Worker Movement. In 1933 she created *The Catholic Worker* newspaper, through which she proclaimed the rights of workers to dignity and to fair and honest treatment by industry and government, landlords, and neighbors. Her pro-labor and anti-war beliefs caused her to be labeled a Communist, but she was never a member of the Communist Party.



NEW YORK WORLD-TELEGRAM & SUN COLLECTION / WIKIPEDIA

Dorothy's concern for social justice grew—among other things, she worked with Cesar Chavez and the United Farm Workers. She was orthodox, pious, and had a deep sense of Catholic morality.

She died in 1980. In 2000, St. John Paul II granted the Archdiocese of New York permission to open a cause for Dorothy

Day's sainthood. That cause was endorsed in 2012 by the US Conference of Catholic Bishops, who called her "a saint for our time." In December 2021, Servant of God Dorothy Day's cause advanced from the Archdiocese of New York to the Vatican's Congregation for the Causes of the Saints.

Fr. Rick Potts, CSsR  
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## A WORD FROM Pope Francis

*In these times when social concerns are so important, I cannot fail to mention the Servant of God Dorothy Day, who founded the Catholic Worker Movement. Her social activism, her passion for justice and for the cause of the oppressed, were inspired by the Gospel, her faith, and the example of the saints.*

ADDRESS TO JOINT SESSION OF US CONGRESS,  
SEPTEMBER 24, 2015



## Our Parish Community

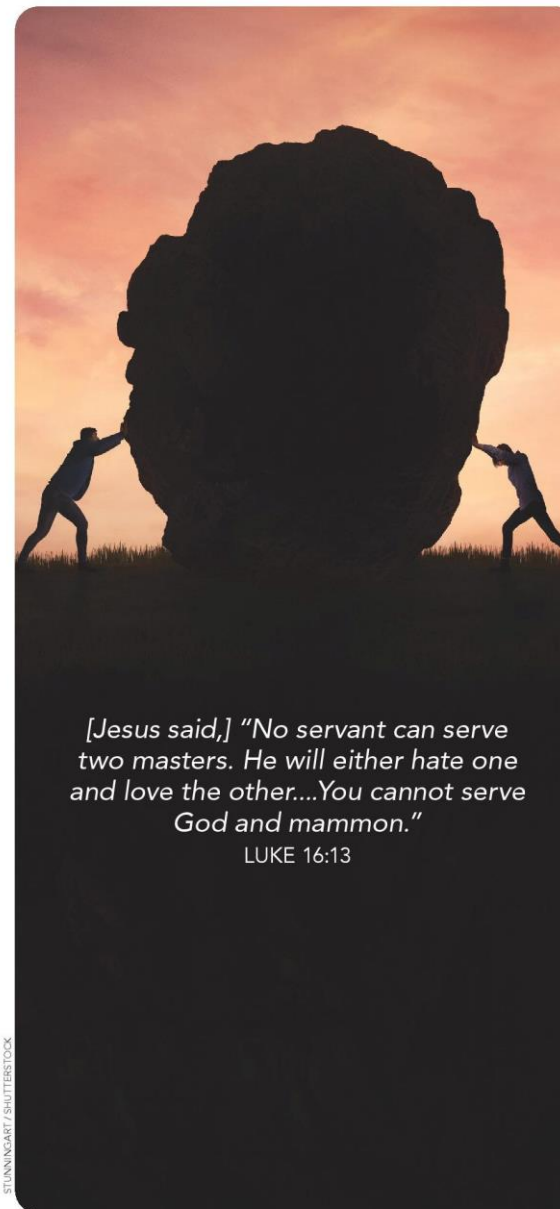
September 18, 2022

Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time (C)

Am 8:4–7

1 Tm 2:1–8

Lk 16:1–13 or 16:10–13



[Jesus said,] "No servant can serve two masters. He will either hate one and love the other....You cannot serve God and mammon."

LUKE 16:13

## God or Mammon?

**J**esus tells a story that might sound confusing to us because it reflects economic practices of his time, not ours. His original audience likely recognized the situation as one that was familiar to them. In the story, an employee fails to oversee and enhance the material holdings of his employer. However, when it came to getting what he could for himself from the employer's assets, he shows remarkable ability. One might say: Good for him! Even the employer thought the employee's actions showed resourcefulness.

Jesus does not applaud the specifics of the man's behavior, acceptable or not, as the case may have been. Rather, he notes that the man used whatever was available to him to ensure his own comfort in the future. Jesus then states that the ingenuity of such a man is more noteworthy than that of children of light. What a condemnation!

Jesus goes on to condemn mammon. Just what is that? It is too easy to say that mammon is money, though money is part of it. A good definition is "the greedy pursuit of gain." This could be any kind of gain over others when we make that gain the primary value in our lives. The story shows that the employee was amazingly industrious in his pursuit. In comparison, the children of light (you and me?) too often fail to demonstrate comparable industry in pursuing the true wealth of which Jesus spoke. Once again, a choice is placed before us: God or mammon?

Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

## FOR Reflection

- ✦ What is the driving pursuit in your life? Is it worthy of you?
- ✦ How committed are you to religious pursuits?