

THE ORTHODOX WEEKLY BULETIN VESTAL, CLIFFWOOD, NEW JERSEY

PUT YOUR TALENTS TO WORK FOR THE CHURCH AND YOU WILL BE REWARDED.

BE ALL THAT GOD WANTS US TO BE!

Every parish is a community of believers – family of worshippers – dedicated to serving the Lord and carrying His Gospel to the world. If every church is the “dwelling place of the living God,” Why are some churches filled with life, while others have the definite appearance of hollow shells? It can be said that the **SUCCESS** or **FAILURE** of any given congregation corresponds with the effort that its members exert in making their parish an extension of God’s kingdom here on earth.

In the Old Testament Book of Ecclesiastes, we read these words: “Whatever your hands have been given to do, do it with all your might.” (Ecclesiastes 9:10) God has placed certain talents into each of our hands, and He expects us to use them for His greater glory and for the advancement of His Holy church. It is our sacred duty to realize exactly what the Lord has called us to do in terms of using our God-given abilities. Some have been called to be **PRIESTS**. Others have been blessed with the ability to **SING**. Others have a talent for **TEACHING**. Still others may have a gift for **ORGANIZING** and leading in a parish setting.

May we all identify our individual strengths and put them to use in our particular church. We cannot “bury” them like the foolish servant in Christ’s famous “Parable of the Talents.” May we be guided by St. Paul’s words to the Christian community in Rome: “We have many members in one body in Christ. Having differing gifts, then according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them.