

Our Duty to Make the Best Use of Our Time

(Matthews Barnabas Metropolitan)

As we are celebrating the Silver Jubilee of our parish, let us try to understand the values of time and see how far we are making the best use of time.

What is time? It is the opportunity to do good. Time can also be misused to do bad. When we do good, God is pleased. When we do bad, God is grieved. God wants us to do good always. St. Paul says "Let all that you do, be done in love. " (1 Corinthians 16:14)

What is love? It is the caring for the welfare of others. We can care for others spontaneously when we identify ourselves with them. When we put ourselves in the place of others, all their desires and problems will become our own and we will spontaneously do everything for them even without any request from them and without any ulterior motive from our studies. This will be a life of service. Our Lord said "The son of man came to serve and not to be served unto" (St. Mark 10:45)

Real love will not only serve others, but also forgive them if they happen to hurt us. This is possible when we identify ourselves with them. Our Lord identified Himself with those who crucified Him and Prayed for them. He said "Father, forgive them for they know not what they do" (St. Luke 23:34)

Fullness of love means supreme respect also. When we put ourselves in the place of others, we can respect them as we wish to be respected. St. Paul says "Count others as better than yourselves" (Philippians 2:3)

Finally, love will help us to obey implicitly. When we put ourselves in the place of others all their desires will become our own and we will obey them whole-heartedly. Our Lord obeyed the heavenly Father unto death, a death on the cross (Philippians 2:8).

When we have this kind of love, we will be in heaven.

The time that is best utilized will be a great asset forever and the time that is neglected will be a loss for you.

Our Lord has said "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength "(St. Mark 12:30)

Let us make the best use of time.