

## Honesty

### Homily for September 21, 2025

Parents, teachers, and adults always emphasize to children, students and young people the importance of being honest. This advice isn't limited to children and young people, but applies to everyone, regardless of age. Being honest means being truthful, ethical, and fair; it involves not lying or cheating. It reflects uprightness and fairness, not deceitfulness. Honest dealings are a core value of respectful and ethical human behavior. If you are an honest person, everyone will want to associate with you because you are trustworthy and a person of integrity.

God created everything in the universe, including Adam and Eve, our first parents. It took Him six days, and He rested on the seventh day. He also instructed us to keep the seventh day holy: “Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord your God. On it, you shall not do any work, neither you, nor your son or daughter, nor your male or female servant, nor your animals, nor any foreigner residing in your towns.” Ex.20:8-10. Today, people often do not keep the Sabbath (Sunday) holy because of prosperity and busyness. In Israel, when they experienced great prosperity, they turned their minds away from God. They resented the Sabbath and the new moon, which were holy days set aside to honor God and spend more time with family. Instead, they chose to go about their business to make more money. As we heard in today's first reading from the prophet Amos, they often used dishonest weights to cheat both suppliers and customers. They engaged in corrupt business practices.

Growing up, we truly kept Sunday sacred. In the morning, we attended church and then returned home to enjoy quality time with our family. It was very relaxing; the only other activity we did was participate in a Small Christian Community (faith-sharing group). We were very honest about honoring the Sabbath. Sports have become a major focus for both adults and kids; if you're not playing, you're watching, or you're taking your children to different places to participate. I feel sorry for families because they have lost that connection and lack quality time together.

In today's Gospel, we hear about a dishonest steward who cheated when he learned he would lose his position. How many times have we cheated for our own gain—whether in marriage, our vocation as religious and ordained, as students, in sports or at the workplace by not working the hours we are paid for? The list is long. Because all of us have been dishonest in our calling, today's second reading from Paul to Timothy offers us guidance on how we are supposed to live: “Beloved: First of all, I ask that supplications, prayers, petitions, and thanksgivings be offered for everyone, for kings and for all in authority, that we may lead a quiet and tranquil life in all devotion and dignity.” 1 Tim. 2:1-2.