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Dear priests and beloved seminarian,

Today's Gospel from Luke 12:39-48, speaks to us about readiness and faithful stewardship.

Jesus uses a simple but powerful image: a master returning unexpectedly, like a thief in the night. The message is clear—because we do not know when the Lord will return, we must live every day with faithfulness and vigilance.

Our lives, vocations, and responsibilities are gifts entrusted to us. And one day, we will give an account of how we have used them—for, as Jesus says, “to whom much is given, much will be required.”
Readiness: Jesus reminds us that the coming of the Lord is often unexpected. Readiness means living each day with purpose and love.

For us seminarians and priests, this means being awake in faith—praying even when it's difficult, studying not just to pass exams but to deepen our love for God, and serving others with sincerity. Readiness is not fear—it is love. The faithful servant keeps watching, not because he fears punishment, but because his heart belongs to the Master.

Stewardship: Jesus asks, “Who, then, is the faithful and prudent steward?”

A steward manages what belongs to another. That is who we are in the Church. We do not own our ministry; we care for what belongs to God.

To be good stewards, we must be trustworthy in the small things—kind in our words, patient with others, faithful in prayer, and generous in service. The gifts we have—our talents, time, and vocation—are not for ourselves but for God's people.

Responsibility and Accountability: Jesus says, “Much will be required of the person entrusted with much.”

We have received much—faith, education, formation, and opportunity. The Lord asks us to use these gifts with integrity, transparency, and love. When He returns, He will not ask how many titles we held, but whether we cared for His people with compassion and truth.

The Challenges of the Church Today: This call to faithfulness comes at a difficult time for the Church. We live in an age of both crisis and grace. In many parts of the world—especially here in Europe—the faith is weakening. Churches once filled with worship are now silent. Many people live as if God is no longer needed. The noise of the world has drowned out His voice. You, coming from Africa and India, bring the fire of young and living Churches. Do not lose that fire!

The Lord has brought you here to help rekindle faith in this land that once brought the Gospel to your ancestors. The Church carries deep wounds—especially from the scandals of abuse and failures of leadership. These have caused pain and loss of trust. But this is not the end—it is a time of purification, of healing, of renewal. Do not be discouraged. Let these wounds make you more determined to become holy priests—men of honesty, compassion, and integrity.

The Church today does not need perfect men, but faithful ones—priests who heal with mercy, listen with understanding, and serve with love. Even in pain, Christ remains faithful to His promise: “I am with you always.” The Holy Spirit is still at work—quietly renewing the Church through humble, faithful servants like you. So, be faithful stewards—men who serve with joy, who watch with hope, and who live every day as if the Lord might return tonight.