

Giving

Dear Parishioners/Disciples/Followers/Leaders

Why we give?

The past months has seen a decline in our giving. This is of great concern to me! May I remind you of the reasons for giving to God and his church to serve for all of us as a refresher to this work of stewardship and giving.

Reasons:

Giving is the Gospel. Jesus asks that we give ourselves as He gave Himself.

“the whole world is mine, and the fullness thereof” and in another “All things come from You, and of Your own do we give you.”

About 1/3 of Jesus teaching has to do with money and possessions. 2 Cor 8 & 9 deals specifically with giving. Therein the word Grace is used 5 times referring to God's free and undeserved giving. Receiving Grace brings out the grace in us; and is evidenced in our giving. *Do we deserve God's grace?*

Giving is spiritual, spontaneous, systematic, sacrificial.

Spiritual

“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have everlasting life.” John 3:16

“First they gave themselves to the Lord.” 2 Cor 8:5

“Thanks be to God for His inexpressible gift.” 2 Cor 9:15

He wants us to have a readiness to receive His gift of love, His Son Jesus Christ, and through Him, forgiveness, abundance of life, and eternal life. He also wants us to show love for Him by our willingness to surrender ourselves completely to Him.

Do you show your love for God by willingly surrendering to Him in all things?

Spontaneous

“We want to know brothers and sisters, about the grace of God which has been shown in the churches at Masedonia, for in a severe test of affliction, their abundance of joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of liberality.” 2 Cor 8:12

He wants us to show our love for Him in the cheerfulness and joy in our giving, because our hearts are overflowing with gratitude for Him for his goodness and love. The Macedonians begged Paul for the privilege of helping other Christians even though they were poverty stricken themselves. (2 Cor 8:4)

Do you give with joy and gratitude and out of a place of poverty?

Some food for thought

“I had a terrible dream that the Lord took my Sunday offering, multiplied it by 10 and that became my weekly salary!!”

Systematic Giving

“So I thought it necessary to urge the brothers and sisters to go on to you before me and arrange in advance for this gift you have promised, so that it may be ready not as an exaction but as a willing gift.” 2 Cor 9:5

“on the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with your income, saving it up so that when I come no collections will have to be made.”1 Cor 16:2

God’s dealings with us are never fickle, inconsistent, or unreliable. He wants us to show our love for Him by committing ourselves to giving away to His Church a minimum percentage of our money on a regular basis. He does not want us to give just when we feel like it, or if we happen to have some money over at the end of the month! 1 Cor 16-1-3

Are you consistent, inconsistent or unreliable in your giving?

Sacrificial Giving

“For they gave according to their means, as I can testify and beyond their means of their own free will.” 2 Cor 8:3

The first tenth of our income belongs to God. It’s His anyway!! The Jew contributed as a minimum, one tenth, and often two or more tenths. Our love offering to God only begins when we have already contributed the first tenth. As Christians we have every reason to outdo the Jew in giving, for we have Jesus, who sacrificed His life for us. God wants us to show our love for Him, by being ready to give beyond our means, when He requires it of us. Luke 21:1-3

How do you give....one tenth...two or three? God loves a cheerful giver!!!!

Bishop Michael Nuttall a previous bishop of Natal once said:

“It seems a kind of madness to talk about the need to increase financial giving in this present economic climate when inflation continues to affect us all. Yet that is precisely the point. We are not being called to give because the times are good and we can easily afford it. We are being called to give simply because this is what is to be expected from those who rejoice – rejoice to know that they are children of God.”

Think upon your giving???

With Love.....**Fr Jerome**