

Spirituality of Giving

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Stewardship Prayer – “I Am”

My parish is composed of people like me.

I help make it what it is.

It will be friendly, if I am.

It will be holy, if I am.

Its pews will be filled, if I help fill them.

It will do great work, if I work.

It will be prayerful, if I pray.

It will make generous gifts to many causes, if I am a generous giver.

It will bring others into worship, if I invite and bring them.

It will be a parish of loyalty and love, of fearlessness and faith, of compassion, charity and mercy, if I, who make it what it is, am filled with these same things.

Therefore, with the help of God, I now dedicate myself to the task of being all things that I want my parish to be.

Amen.

In God We Trust

- Many people have a hard time detaching themselves from money
- We need to talk more about the spirituality of giving – starts with trust in God
- Many think they “earn” their money; don’t recognize God’s active presence in their life
- Generous with all of our gifts; especially the one thing that means the most to you
- By sharing all of our gifts we keep God first in everything
- Helps us from putting other “gods” before God
- 1st Commandment – I am the Lord your God. You shall have no other gods before me

Top Priority

- For many people, God and money run “neck and neck” as top priority
- People are craving God but unsure or forgot how to start the relationship with Him
- People are looking for guidance in handling their money; charitable giving and daily & long term management
- A person’s attitude towards money has direct influence on their relationship with God
- The average Catholic only gives 1% of income to Church and charity
- Many Catholics are generous, but not in proportion to what they have been given

Bible – Financial Guide

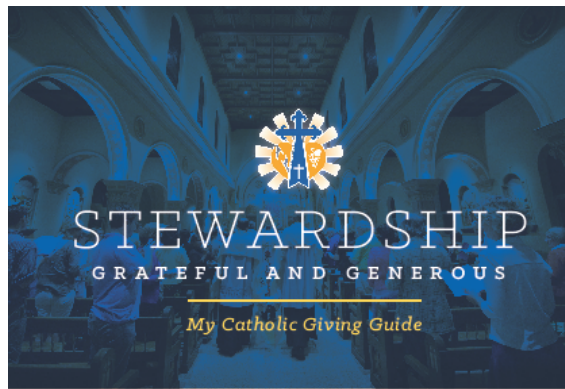
- Old and New Testaments give us direction on giving money
- “The measure of your own freewill offering shall be in proportion to the blessings the Lord, your God, has bestowed on you.” Deuteronomy 16:10
- “Honor the Lord with your wealth, with first fruits...” Proverbs 3:9
- “For where your treasure will be, there your heart will be also.” Matthew 6:21
- “You cannot serve two masters. He will hate one and love the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.” Matthew 6:25
- “Whoever sows sparingly will reap sparingly and whoever sows bountifully will reap bountifully...for God loves a cheerful giver.” 2 Corinthians 9:6-7

A Need to Give

- Giving money is a pillar of our faith, like attending Mass and participating in ministry
- God doesn't need our money; we have a need to give
- Why? Because we are made in God's image and likeness
- God is the biggest "giver" of all time – no one "out-gives" God!
- Giving our offertory is a big part of Holy Mass each Sunday:
 - The priest says, "Pray, brethren that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father."
 - We respond, "May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of His name, for our good, and for the good of the holy church."

Personal Stewardship Best Practices with Money

- Catholics have many opportunities to give: offertory, second collections, annual bishop's appeal, capital campaigns and other Church & community needs
- We are called to support them all, not pick one over the other
- Help people be better stewards of all their money; plan your giving on annual basis
- My Catholic Giving Guide
- Dave Ramsey Financial Peace University
- Legacy Planning Seminar
- Tithing
- “When faith does not reach the pocket, it is not genuine faith.” Pope Francis



A GUIDE TO GIVING IN STEWARDSHIP

God calls us to be generous with all of our gifts, including our treasure. Our faith teaches us this through the Scriptures:

"Honor the Lord with your wealth, with first fruits..." (Proverbs 3:9)

"How shall I make a return to the Lord for all the good He has done for me?" (Psalm 116:12)

In gratitude, we are called to give to God from our first fruits. That means creating a plan for giving to His Church. Throwing a last-minute donation into the collection basket time and again only leaves us frustrated. Having a plan, we can better do our part to share the gifts that God has given us.

BEST PRACTICES

- Create and maintain a household budget
 - Plan your giving annually
- Use your parish's electronic offering (if applicable)
- Understand that tithing literally means to give 10 percent of your income.
Suggested amounts: 5 percent to the local parish and 5 percent to other Church needs and charities that serve the greater community.

"Whoever sows sparingly will reap sparingly and whoever sows bountifully will reap bountifully. Each must do as already determined, without sadness or compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."

— 2 Corinthians 9:6-7

ANNUAL GIVING OPPORTUNITIES



Offertory

Whether giving weekly, monthly or yearly, the offertory supports the parish's mission and ministries.



Annual Catholic Appeal

Supports the immediate and urgent mission of the local Church, including ministries, parishes and schools.



Second Collections

Supports the priorities of the pope and bishops through specific national and worldwide ministries.



Parish Capital Campaign

Provides the means for parishes to carry out specific projects.



Community Charities

Opportunities to support the mission of nonprofit organizations and other needs.

USE THE WORKSHEET ON THE FOLLOWING PAGE TO PLAN YOUR GIVING

Contact David Baranowski, Stewardship Education Director | (314) 792-7215 | david@baranowski@archstl.org | www.archstl.org/stewardship

MY CATHOLIC GIVING GUIDE WORKSHEET

TEAR OUT AND KEEP WORKSHEET

1. CALCULATE ANNUAL GROSS FAMILY INCOME:

My income	\$ _____
My spouse's income	\$ _____
Other income	\$ _____
Total	\$ _____

2. DETERMINE ANNUAL PERCENTAGE TO GIVE:

Tithing (10%)	_____ %
(or)	
Other	_____ %

3. CALCULATE ANNUAL DOLLAR GIVING AMOUNT:

Total Annual Gross Family Income X Annual Giving Percentage = Annual Dollar Giving Amount
 \$ _____ X _____ % = \$ _____

4. DETERMINE DOLLAR AMOUNT FOR EACH GIVING OPPORTUNITY:

OFFERTORY

Weekly \$ _____ (or) Monthly \$ _____ Annual \$ _____

ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL

Annual \$ _____

PARISH CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

Annual \$ _____

SECOND COLLECTIONS/MINISTRY SUPPORT

Annual Catholic Charities Christmas Appeal	\$ _____
Annual Seminary Collection	\$ _____
Black & Indian Missions	\$ _____
Campaign for Human Development	\$ _____
Catholic Communications Campaign	\$ _____
Catholic Home Missions Appeal	\$ _____
Catholic Relief Services	\$ _____
Catholic University of America	\$ _____
Church in Central & Eastern Europe	\$ _____
Formation of Permanent Deacons	\$ _____
Glennon Sunday	\$ _____
Holy Land	\$ _____
Latin America Apostolate	\$ _____
Peter's Pence (for the Pope)	\$ _____
Regina Cleri	\$ _____
Respect Life Apostolate	\$ _____
Retirement Fund for Religious	\$ _____
St. Louis Review Subscription	\$ _____
St. Vincent de Paul Society	\$ _____
World Mission Sunday	\$ _____

COMMUNITY CHARITIES & UNEXPECTED NEEDS

_____	\$ _____
_____	\$ _____
_____	\$ _____
_____	\$ _____

TOTAL ANNUAL GIVING

AMOUNT: \$ _____



GIVING EXAMPLE

1. Calculate annual gross income:

My income	\$45,000
Spouse's income	\$10,000
Other income	\$5,000
Total	\$60,000

2. Determine annual percentage to give:

3% OR 10%

3. Calculate annual giving amount:

\$60,000	\$60,000
x 3%	x 10%
\$1,800	\$6,000

4. Determine dollar amount for each giving opportunity:

\$1,800		\$6,000
x 50%	Parish offertory	x 50%
\$900		\$3,000
\$900	Weekly offertory	\$3,000
+ 52		+ 52
\$17.3		\$57.7
	OR	
\$900	Monthly offertory	\$3,000
+ 12		+ 12
\$75		\$250
\$20	Annual second collections (20)	\$50
x 20		x 20
\$400		\$1,000
\$200	Annual Catholic Appeal	\$600

OTHER CHARITIES

\$75	Grade school fundraiser	\$300
\$75	High school fundraiser	\$300
\$50	Charity 1	\$250
\$40	Charity 2	\$200
\$60	Parish Capital Campaign	\$350
\$300	OTHER TOTALS	\$1,400

Parish Stewardship Best Practices

- Increased Offertory Programs
- Electronic Offertory
- Envelopes – Custom Graphics
- Children’s Envelopes
- Visitor’s Envelopes
- Pass Large Offertory Basket

Talk More Frequently About Giving as a Matter of Faith

- Many people think all priests do is talk about money when most don't
- People confuse "fund-raising" requests with parish offertory
- Talk in terms of "advancing the mission of the parish" instead of "paying the bills" (University of Notre Dame study on Catholic Giving)
- Help parishioners contact offertory to parish ministry
- Communicate once per month in all forms of parish communication

Parish “Generosity” Best Practices

- Priest is first one to put offertory envelope in the offertory basket
- Parish Tithing Committee
- Promote personal tithing
- Start Personal Finance ministry
- Catholic Values Investing
- Parish Grade School “Tithing Friday” mass