

THE “WHY” AND “WHAT” OF GIVING

Stewardship is an important concept in our Faith-life. Clergy are actually the more obligated to be good stewards (just look at I Cor. 4:1-1-2 as an example). But we all must exercise stewardship—that is, responsible in our use of what we have for the up-building of the Kingdom

For some of us this means a use of our talents more than anything else: think of those who have the time and love and “eyes of the heart” to be hands-on effective as members of our St. Vincent de Paul Society or Ministry of Care to the home-bound and those in hospitals and nursing homes. This is a beautiful thing for God, as Mother Teresa put it.

For most of the rest of us, ours is a responsibility to be “enablers.” That is, we can by our financial support allow others with more time and training to act *in persona Christi* (in the person of Christ) on our behalf. Most dynamically as a parish we do this with our donations to the fund for San Francisco de Asis parish in Temascalapa; we contribute the wherewithal, and we trust (with good reason) the *Timon* (steering committee) in Temascalapa with the direct administration of the funds. From the reports offered to our parish (especially on the church’s bulletin board and on our parish’s web-site), you can see clearly how well they are accomplishing the end of “Keeping the Kids in School.”

Our parish also needs that kind of generosity in order to function. Justice demands at least a basic kind of salary for employees; physical plant and fixed expenses (utilities, insurance, repairs, etc.) are a burden we must shoulder. We need also to allow (through ministries) for the processes of youth formation, catechetical formation (youth and adults), and social interaction (here I am thinking especially of our Family Life Committee, as well as our Knights of Columbus). Liturgical celebration for the sake of empowering us into mission is why we exist, and so the church itself, as well as everything that goes into worship, must be supported.

So you think: “I can’t sing or play a musical instrument; I get too nervous to be a Lector; I’m too shy to visit a sick person in hospital or a nursing home; I don’t know how to repair anything that is broken; I’m not strong enough to do things like heavy-duty lifting or lawn cutting.” And that’s OK. Your generosity in tithing supplies us with the ability to get these essentials done, and that’s a prayer and sacrifice and gift you give to God. You can write a weekly, or monthly check and say, while writing it: “I want to be a part of the work of the Kingdom of God at Our Savior. I want to be part of the missionary outreach in which we are involved. I want my check to be a way of saying YES to Jesus.”

This is the spirituality of stewardship, of sacrificial giving. You enable us corporately to answer the question “What Would Jesus Do?” not with words but with actions. THANK YOU!