

Grateful Givers are...

...those who receive God's gifts gratefully, cherish and tend them in a responsible and accountable manner, share them in justice and love with others, and return them with increase to the Lord. Grateful giving is truly the sincere profound response WE make when our eyes are opened to the call of living out our faith. It goes beyond the words of our belief and into our actions – living our lives as holy people.

WHY IS IT SO DIFFICULT TO TALK ABOUT OUR TREASURES?

Perhaps the gift in our lives that raises the most controversy and discomfort is our treasure – our financial resources. Many believe that is why Jesus spent so much time talking about it. The estimate is that Jesus talked about money six times as much as he talked about prayer! Obviously this is not because Jesus didn't place importance on prayer, but rather, because money is the medium used to accomplish so many transactions in our day to day living. It serves as an indicator of our priorities and values.

MONEY "SAYS SOMETHING" ABOUT WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE HOLD AS IMPORTANT IN OUR LIVES.

- Money represents our work, what many refer to as our "livelihood." Frequently, the work we choose to do is tied to our very identity. It is connected with our skills, values, and natural abilities, all given by God, and now hopefully is being used in a way that collaborates with God's plan. So then, the income that results from our work represents a segment of the role we play in building God's kingdom here on earth.
- For the great majority of people there is a limited amount of financial resources. Each time we make a purchase, we make a choice as to how these limited resources will be used. The way we choose to spend money is indicative of what is going on in our hearts. Through the use of our gifts we have an opportunity to restore the world, to repair the inequities which conflict with God's plan of justice and peace.
- Our secular world in is constantly tempting us to be self-centered, to focus on the pleasures of the earthly world rather than the salvific activity for all humanity. Through the Church, a gift from Jesus, we have the opportunity to form one another, calling one another back to the reminder of this life of holiness for which we are created, and are given an effective means of using our financial resources in acts of charity and evangelization.



QUESTION FOR SELF-REFLECTION:

Am I a living example to my family, neighbors, workplace, and community that living my life in gratitude also includes sharing my treasures to help to build the Kingdom of God?