



Week Leading up to 11.7.21: Giving When It Hurts

***{Start with reviewing the previous Meetings Challenge or discuss prior to sharing this week's challenge.}**

Let's Begin: Think about how the challenge went for the last session. What went well? What was difficult?

Opening Prayer:

Begin with a brief moment of silence shaking off any and all distractions or difficulties of the day and remembering that God is always with us.

Read: Mk 12:38-44 or 12:41-44

After the Reading Conclude with this prayer:

Dear Jesus, the giving of ourselves allows us to grow in new ways. Help us to be ever aware of the needs of our neighbors. Open our hearts to trust in Your care for us so that we willingly give in sacrificial ways to build Your kingdom. Amen

Reflection or Discussion Question:

1. Why do you think giving sacrificially is different than giving of your excess? Which do you think/feel God asks us to do?

YouTube Video: The Christian Joy of Sharing with the Franciscan Friars (4:10)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?app=desktop&v=DcqU0abOvVU&feature=youtu.be>

Reflection or Discussion Questions:

2. Have you ever experienced extreme poverty or served others in extreme poverty?
3. Fr. Emmanuel tells a story of a little boy experiencing true joy when he shared the gift he'd been given with others. Why do you think so much joy was experienced in this story? What do you think/feel can be learned from this story about sharing what we've been given? {Leaders-some thoughts to possibly flush out might be: what we have is given to us by God. Do we do the same, is true joy experiencing the joy others receive through our giving?}
4. Just like the little boy in the story with the lollipop, when we give with a sincere and selfless disposition we can witness and appreciate the genuine joy it will bring to others. Does this change what you think/feel about how you approach giving?
5. What are ways we say, "No, that's mine"?
6. Have you ever given sacrificially or witnessed another giving sacrificially? What was the outcome? Please share your thoughts. What do you think/feel happens to us when we give sacrificially?
7. There are many ways we can give sacrificially -- with money, time, skills, and by sharing our faith. Have you thought about giving more sacrificially to your parish or a charity? Please share.

Session Challenge:

- Spend time in prayer evaluating if you are giving sacrificially or out of your excess. Consider one way that you can start sacrificial giving or increase what you are doing either to your parish or another charity and implement it.
 - A couple of volunteer opportunities available through the parish: Thanksgiving food drive (Cindy Vogel 248-888-9029), Tag writing for Giving Tree on November 14th at OLS cafeteria, 9 Family Sundays – Recreation/Hospitality Volunteers for November 14th or December 12th from 12:30-1:30 at OLS gym (Eric Coules 248-474-6480), or Saturdays at St. Christine's (Maureen Northrup 313-995-8673). If you would like to serve the parish in other ways, please contact Sharon Williams or Mike Chamberland by calling 248-474-5720.

Closing Prayer: (Leaders: After praying the Stewardship Prayer below we recommended offering time for participants to offer personal intentions.) *Generous and loving God, You call us to be disciples of Your Son Jesus and good stewards of all Your many gifts. Open our mind and hearts to a greater awareness and deeper appreciation of Your countless blessings. Transform us through the power of Your Spirit to nurture a Stewardship way of life marked by faith-filled prayer, service to our neighbor, and generous sharing. Teach us to be faithful servants of Your gifts. With Mary's help, may we return tenfold the gifts entrusted to us. We pray through Christ, our Lord. Amen.*

{Optional additional Readings} Sunday Reading 1: **1 Kgs 17:10-16** Sunday Reading 2: **Heb 9:24-28**