



JUST A GUY IN THE PEW

THE NARROW ROAD.

JUNE 2021 | GENEROSITY

*In loving memory of Bill Platten.
A leader, a mentor, a friend.*



THE NARROW ROAD

THE EVERYDAY GUIDE FOR THE EVERYDAY GUY



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OPPORTUNITIES FOR GRACE

DAY	MORNING PRAYER	THE NARROW ROAD	DAILY MASS	CONFESSION	ADORATION	TIME WITH WIFE	TIME WITH KIDS	NIGHT PRAYER/ EXAMEN	SUNDAY MASS
1									
2									
3									
4									
5									
6									
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DAY	MORNING PRAYER	THE NARROW ROAD	DAILY MASS	CONFESSION	ADORATION	TIME WITH WIFE	TIME WITH KIDS	NIGHT PRAYER/ EXAMEN	SUNDAY MASS
16									
17									
18									
19									
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21									
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26									
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28									
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30									

THE VIRTUE OF GENEROSITY

My brothers, last month we focused on gratitude. We worked on being grateful for everything in life—the good and the bad. It is from that learned virtue of gratitude that we find ourselves inspired to be generous. Generosity is a natural result of living a grateful life. When we truly appreciate the gifts we have been given from God, we feel an overwhelming sense of joy and a desire to give back. We find ourselves longing to pass on what we have received. We turn from being self-centered and selfish men to men with a giving heart and a very real sense of selflessness. The virtue of generosity is crucial to living the life of a disciple, and it is absolutely necessary when living a life of service to others, which we are called to do.

St. John Paul II said, “The measure of your success will be the measure of your generosity.” He was restating the words of Our Lord from Luke 6:38, where Jesus said, “Give and it will be given to you; good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For the measure you give will be the measure you get back.” This is one of the most crucial lessons we must learn as a follower of Christ. We will not be judged on all our worldly accomplishments and the material things we have amassed. We will be judged on what we gave away. Our time, our talent, our treasure. These are things that are not meant for storing up, but for sharing with others. This is what Jesus meant when He asked the question, “What profit is there for one to gain the whole world and forfeit his life?” (Mark 8:36). Think of all the gifts God has given you. These are meant not only for you but, first and foremost, are meant for others, too.

When we live our lives with consideration for only ourselves and our own needs we miss the point of life. That’s why you can look around and quickly see how many unhappy people there are in the world. It is because they have bought into the lie that if you put yourself first and always seek to meet your own needs you will be happy. It is the very reason you see so many with so much, but in truth they have so little. True joy and true fulfillment come from passing on what we have been so graciously given. Just think about the times you have rolled down your window to give food or money to someone in need. Think about the times you have been led to share your faith with someone who is struggling to get through life. Recall how you felt when you used a special skill or ability to help a friend, family member, or your parish with a specific need. Look back on the times you stopped to give someone a moment of your time when you didn’t really have the time to give—but you did it anyway. I’ll bet that looking back on each of those moments triggers feelings of joy and contentment; the kind of joy and contentment that only comes from giving of yourself to others.

My brothers, that's what true joy is all about. It's the reward of living the life Christ has called us to live. The fact is, when we are living in a constant state of giving, we realize we receive so much more. That's what is so crazy about putting others first. When you finally figure it out, you realize that by being generous, you actually receive more than you ever gave.

This month, let us pray for each other that we can fight the urge to be selfish with our time, talent, and treasure. Let's look for opportunities each day to bless others with what we have been given. I promise you, brothers, you won't regret it.

**In Christ,
John**

VIRTUE PLAN FOR THE MONTH

VIRTUE: GENEROSITY

MOTTO:

"He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must do as he has made up his mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." (2 Corinthians 9: 6-7)

ROOT SIN:

Greed/Pride/Selfishness

WHERE DO I SEE THIS SIN IN MY LIFE?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

PLAN TO FORM GENEROSITY

WEEK 1: Generosity and God

WEEK 2: Generosity and My Wife

WEEK 3: Generosity and My Children

WEEK 4: Generosity and My Neighbor

SAY THE PRAYER FOR GENEROSITY

ST. IGNATIUS

Dear Lord teach me to be generous;
teach me to serve you as you deserve,
to give and not to count the cost,
to fight and not to heed the wounds,
to toil and not to seek for rest,
to labor and not to ask for reward,
save that of knowing that I do your will.
Amen.

WEEK 1 REFLECTION:

GENEROSITY AND GOD

God is so generous. Stop and think about that for a minute. Think of how much God has truly given to you. First and foremost, He gave up the one thing He loved the most for you: His Son, Jesus. Imagine doing that—giving one of your children up to save someone who didn't deserve it. It really is hard to fathom.

Look around at all the other signs that show how the Lord has been generous to you. Your health, your family, your friends, your freedom, your home, your job, and so much more. The Lord continually showers blessings upon us. Even in the times when it doesn't seem like it, He is constantly bestowing gifts upon us. Our job as loving sons is to receive these gifts from our generous Father and to do our very best to give them all back in to Him in some form or fashion.

Often times, when we think about being generous towards God, our minds go right to tithing. This is probably the most common way people give back to God. Tithing has biblical roots, and it's also one of the quicker and easier ways of giving back to God. If you think about it, it really isn't a bad deal. God gave you all the money you have and you get to keep 90 percent of it all. Why, then, is it so hard to give that 10 percent? For some, it may be that we don't have it to give. It might be that we have had hard times and we can't give at the moment.

For a long time in my life, I struggled to tithe because I was selfish and saw it as my money and not His. Therefore I found it hard to give back to Him because "I earned it." That's why money can be such a huge problem for some people. We freely receive it from God, but we don't want to freely give it back. We have to start looking at the money we have as God's money. This will help you see that you are merely giving back some of what He gave to you.

Two of the other ways you can begin to practice generosity is with your time and your talents. More than anything, God wants your time. He wants your attention. God wishes to grow in relationship with you. The only way that happens is with you being generous with your time. We have to be willing to sacrifice other things so that we can give more of our time to growing in relationship with our Father. That is why the Opportunities for Grace Chart is so powerful. There are multiple ways listed there to give more of your time to God. The crazy thing is, the more you give, the more He gives. He continues to bless you even in your attempts to repay previous blessings!

All of us have specific gifts that God blessed us with when we were created. We all have different talents and things we are good at. Those gifts were given to us for a reason and that reason is to grow the kingdom. When we use our talents in conjunction with our time, we can really give back to God in some amazing ways. Some choose to use those talents by teaching RCIA or PRE in their parish. Some people use their gifts of leadership to run small groups or organize groups to work in the soup kitchen. In my life, I try to use my gifts to bring people to Jesus through the podcast, speaking engagements, and the materials we provide through Pew Ministries.

We all have different gifts. All we have to do is figure out what they are and be willing to give our time to use them for serving God. My brothers, this week, let's give our time to the Lord so we can grow in relationship with Him and He can show us how to use our gifts to best serve Him.

WEEK 1: GENEROSITY AND GOD

JUNE 1, 2021

THOUGHTS FROM THE CHURCH

"The more you give to our Lord, the greater blessings you will receive."

— St. Vincent de Paul

 SAY THE PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

GOSPEL

MK 12:13-17 MEMORIAL OF SAINT JUSTIN, MARTYR

And they sent to him some of the Pharisees and some of the Hero'di-ans, to entrap him in his talk. And they came and said to him, "Teacher, we know that you are true, and care for no man; for you do not regard the position of men, but truly teach the way of God. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar, or not? Should we pay them, or should we not?" But knowing their hypocrisy, he said to them, "Why put me to the test? Bring me a coin, and let me look at it." And they brought one. And he said to them, "Whose likeness and inscription is this?" They said to him, "Caesar's." Jesus said to them, "Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's." And they were amazed at him.

[illegible]

HOW HAVE I SHOWN MY GENEROSITY TO GOD TODAY?

[illegible]

WEEK 1: GENEROSITY AND GOD

JUNE 2, 2021

THOUGHTS FROM THE CHURCH

"We cultivate a very small field for Christ, but we love it, knowing that God does not require great achievements but a heart that holds back nothing for itself."

—St. Rose Phillipine Duchesne



SAY THE PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

GOSPEL

MK 12:18-27

And Sad'ducees came to him, who say that there is no resurrection; and they asked him a question, saying, "Teacher, Moses wrote for us that if a man's brother dies and leaves a wife, but leaves no child, the man must take the wife, and raise up children for his brother. There were seven brothers; the first took a wife, and when he died left no children; and the second took her, and died, leaving no children; and the third likewise; and the seven left no children. Last of all the woman also died. In the resurrection whose wife will she be? For the seven had her as wife."

Jesus said to them, "Is not this why you are wrong, that you know neither the scriptures nor the power of God? For when they rise from the dead, they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels in heaven. And as for the dead being raised, have you not read in the book of Moses, in the passage about the bush, how God said to him, 'I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob'? He is not God of the dead, but of the living; you are quite wrong."

WHAT IS GOD SAYING TO ME IN THIS GOSPEL?

ACTS OF GENEROSITY

HOW HAVE I SHOWN MY GENEROSITY TO GOD TODAY?

WEEK 1: GENEROSITY AND GOD

JUNE 3, 2021

THOUGHTS FROM THE CHURCH

"God loves those who find joy in giving."

— St. John Paul II

 SAY THE PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

GOSPEL

MK 12:28-34

MEMORIAL OF SAINT CHARLES LWANGA AND COMPANIONS, MARTYRS

And one of the scribes came up and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that he answered them well, asked him, "Which commandment is the first of all?" Jesus answered, "The first is, 'Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one; and you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.' The second is this, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these." And the scribe said to him, "You are right, Teacher; you have truly said that he is one, and there is no other but he; and to love him with all the heart, and with all the understanding, and with all the strength, and to love one's neighbor as oneself, is much more than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices." And when Jesus saw that he answered wisely, he said to him, "You are not far from the kingdom of God." And after that no one dared to ask him any question.

WHAT IS GOD SAYING TO ME IN THIS GOSPEL?

ACTS OF GENEROSITY

HOW HAVE I SHOWN MY GENEROSITY TO GOD TODAY?

WEEK 1: GENEROSITY AND GOD

JUNE 4, 2021

THOUGHTS FROM THE CHURCH

“Consider God’s generosity towards you rather than your own unworthiness in His sight, and live in His strength, rather than the thoughts of your own weakness.”

— St. Vincent de Paul



SAY THE PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

GOSPEL

MK 12:35-37

And as Jesus taught in the temple, he said, “How can the scribes say that the Christ is the son of David? David himself, inspired by the Holy Spirit, declared,

‘The Lord said to my Lord,

Sit at my right hand,

till I put thy enemies under thy feet.’

David himself calls him Lord; so how is he his son?” And the great throng heard him gladly.

[illegible]

HOW HAVE I SHOWN MY GENEROSITY TO GOD TODAY?

WEEK 1: GENEROSITY AND GOD

JUNE 5, 2021

THOUGHTS FROM THE CHURCH

"Teach us to give and not count the cost.

— St. Ignatius de Loyola

 SAY THE PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

GOSPEL

MK 12:38-44 MEMORIAL OF SAINT BONIFACE, BISHOP AND MARTYR

And in his teaching he said, "Beware of the scribes, who like to go about in long robes, and to have salutations in the market places and the best seats in the synagogues and the places of honor at feasts, who devour widows' houses and for a pretense make long prayers. They will receive the greater condemnation."

And he sat down opposite the treasury, and watched the multitude putting money into the treasury. Many rich people put in large sums. And a poor widow came, and put in two copper coins, which make a penny. And he called his disciples to him, and said to them, "Truly, I say to you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the treasury. For they all contributed out of their abundance; but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, her whole living."

[illegible][illegible]

WEEK 1: GENEROSITY AND GOD

JUNE 6, 2021

THOUGHTS FROM THE CHURCH

"In every way I have shown you that by hard work of that sort we must help the weak, and keep in mind the words of the Lord Jesus who himself said, "It is more blessed to give than to receive."

— Acts 20:35

SAY THE PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

GOSPEL

MK 14:12-16, 22-26

THE SOLEMNITY OF THE MOST HOLY BODY AND BLOOD OF CHRIST

And on the first day of Unleavened Bread, when they sacrificed the passover lamb, his disciples said to him, "Where will you have us go and prepare for you to eat the passover?" And he sent two of his disciples, and said to them, "Go into the city, and a man carrying a jar of water will meet you; follow him, and wherever he enters, say to the householder, 'The Teacher says, Where is my guest room, where I am to eat the passover with my disciples?' And he will show you a large upper room furnished and ready; there prepare for us." And the disciples set out and went to the city, and found it as he had told them; and they prepared the passover.

And as they were eating, he took bread, and blessed, and broke it, and gave it to them, and said, "Take; this is my body." And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, and they all drank of it. And he said to them, "This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many. Truly, I say to you, I shall not drink again of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God." And when they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

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HOW HAVE I SHOWN MY GENEROSITY TO GOD TODAY?

THOUGHTS FROM THE CHURCH

“Try always to be generous with God.”

— St. Mary MacKillop



GOSPEL

MT 5:1-12

Seeing the crowds, he went up on the mountain, and when he sat down his disciples came to him. And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying:

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. “Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. “Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth. “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied. “Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy. “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God. “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God. “Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. “Blessed are you when men revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so men persecuted the prophets who were before you.

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HOW HAVE I SHOWN MY GENEROSITY TO GOD TODAY?

WEEK 2 REFLECTION:

GENEROSITY AND MY WIFE

**If you are not married and do not have children, use this week to continue to grow your relationship with God and your neighbor while praying for your future spouse and children.*

My brothers, the virtue of generosity plays a significant role in every successful marriage. I was reading a study by the University of Virginia the other day that proved this fact. The study was conducted in 2011 and found that couples who reported a high amount of generosity in their marriages “were at least 32 percentage points more likely to report that they are very happy in their marriage” than marriages with lower levels of generosity. It makes sense, doesn’t it? When we are living out of a place of sacrificial love, we are more joyful. To be generous means to give freely and abundantly without counting the cost. It means to give without looking to receive. That last line can be the tricky part though, right fellas? Often times, when it comes to our wives, we give, but there is a catch that goes along with it.

I mean, if we are being honest, sometimes we give because we are looking to receive. Maybe we cleaned the house because we want a night out with the boys. Maybe we picked up other chores our wives usually handle because we want them to go to bed with us. If we aren’t careful, we can get into a habit of doing nice things for our wives strictly because we want something in return. That is not true generosity. No, that is looking out for ourselves and it leads us back to the selfishness we are all trying so hard to avoid. If we are falling prey to this false sense of generosity, then we need to nip it in the bud as soon as possible and learn to practice true, no-strings-attached generosity with our wives.

So, how do we do that? Well, there are several ways. Most of us usually go the easy route. We grab some flowers or we buy some gifts we hope they love. Those are nice things, but I think we can be generous in more profound, life-giving ways. For instance, we can be generous with our words. Here’s what I mean: we should spend a lot of time affirming our wives. We should compliment them on the things they are good at and let them know how special they are to us. On the days where they are weighed down with being a mom, a spouse, an employee—not to mention the the kids’ chauffeur—we should let them know how amazing they are. When they are feeling self-doubt or stress over not being enough, we should be generous with our words and lift them up. We were created to be the protectors of our family, and often times that means protecting our wives from the lies the devil tells them about themselves. This is where being generous in our words can really make a difference in the lives of our spouses.

There are other ways of showing our generosity, as well. We can practice random acts of love; doing things that we don’t normally do. Here are few examples: picking up the groceries, taking care of the kids needs, or offering to give our wives a night off to do whatever it is her heart desires. Sometimes that is what our wives need more than anything—time to breathe, time to step off the crazy merry-go-round of parenting, juggling work, and seeing to everyone else’s needs. Sometimes, giving of your time is the most generous gift you can give your spouse.

Another suggestion is to be generous with your affection. I am not just talking about sex here, fellas. I am talking about simple signs of our affection for our wives. When is the last time you held your wife’s hand while walking through a store, watching a movie, or simply sitting together? When is the last time you walked up and gave her a warm, lingering hug? There have been times in my marriage where I have gone days, even weeks without doing so. Don’t let a lack of affection toward your wife become

a habit, guys. Our wives want to feel intimacy with us outside of the bedroom. If we are not taking time to be generous in this way, we are doing a real disservice to our marriage.

One last thing, my brothers: don't forget to be generous with your humility and with your gratitude. We spent time the last two months on those virtues and they can be practiced here as a part of generosity. Be generous with your apologies. Be generous with saying you're sorry. Sometimes that is the best gift we can give someone we have hurt. Don't ever forget the power of admitting you were wrong and asking for forgiveness. Use the words "thank you" early and often. Many times those are the words that escape us, but our wives long to hear those words from us and from our children.

Our wives are more deserving of our generosity than anyone else in our lives. They endlessly give without ever asking to receive. It is not as easy for us men. We have to work at it and we have to learn to be intentional about it. So that's what we are going to do this week. Gentlemen, be generous in your words, with your time, and in your actions with your wife this week. Let her know that you see her. Let her know you see every beautiful, generous, life giving thing about her. Let's give back to the one who has given us so much. Good luck fellas, and know that I am walking alongside you in practicing generosity with our spouses this week.

WEEK 2: GENEROSITY AND MY WIFE

JUNE 8, 2021

THOUGHTS FROM THE CHURCH

"Intense love does not measure, it just gives."

— St. Teresa of Calcutta

 SAY THE PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

GOSPEL

MT 5:13-16

"You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trodden under foot by men. "You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hid. Nor do men light a lamp and put it under a bushel, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

[illegible]

HOW HAVE I SHOWN GENEROSITY IN MY RELATIONSHIP WITH MY WIFE TODAY?

[illegible]

WEEK 2: GENEROSITY AND MY WIFE

JUNE 9, 2021

THOUGHTS FROM THE CHURCH

“Lord, help us to live the virtue of generosity, to love without limits.”

— Pope Francis



SAY THE PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

GOSPEL

MT 5:17-19

Think not that I have come to abolish the law and the prophets; I have come not to abolish them but to fulfill them. For truly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. Whoever then relaxes one of the least of these commandments and teaches men so, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but he who does them and teaches them shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.

[illegible]

HOW HAVE I SHOWN GENEROSITY IN MY RELATIONSHIP WITH MY WIFE TODAY?

WEEK 2: GENEROSITY AND MY WIFE

JUNE 10, 2021

THOUGHTS FROM THE CHURCH

"We must be full reservoirs in order to let out water spill out without becoming empty, and we must possess the spirit with which we want them to be animated, for no one can give what he does not have."

— St. Vincent



SAY THE PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

GOSPEL

MT 5:20-26

For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. "You have heard that it was said to the men of old, 'You shall not kill; and whoever kills shall be liable to judgment.' But I say to you that every one who is angry with his brother shall be liable to judgment; whoever insults his brother shall be liable to the council, and whoever says, 'You fool!' shall be liable to the hell of fire. So if you are offering your gift at the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift. Make friends quickly with your accuser, while you are going with him to court, lest your accuser hand you over to the judge, and the judge to the guard, and you be put in prison; truly, I say to you, you will never get out till you have paid the last penny.

WHAT IS GOD SAYING TO ME IN THIS GOSPEL?

ACTS OF GENEROSITY

HOW HAVE I SHOWN GENEROSITY IN MY RELATIONSHIP WITH MY WIFE TODAY?

WEEK 2: GENEROSITY AND MY WIFE

JUNE 11, 2021

THOUGHTS FROM THE CHURCH

"Let us remember that love lives through sacrifice and is nourished by giving. Without sacrifice, there is no love."

— St. Maximilian Kolbe

 SAY THE PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

GOSPEL

JN 19:31-37 SOLEMNITY OF MOST SACRED HEART OF JESUS

Since it was the day of Preparation, in order to prevent the bodies from remaining on the cross on the sabbath (for that sabbath was a high day), the Jews asked Pilate that their legs might be broken, and that they might be taken away. So the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first, and of the other who had been crucified with him; but when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. But one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and at once there came out blood and water. He who saw it has borne witness—his testimony is true, and he knows that he tells the truth—that you also may believe. For these things took place that the scripture might be fulfilled, "Not a bone of him shall be broken." And again another scripture says, "They shall look on him whom they have pierced."

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HOW HAVE I SHOWN GENEROSITY IN MY RELATIONSHIP WITH MY WIFE TODAY?

WEEK 2: GENEROSITY AND MY WIFE

JUNE 12, 2021

THOUGHTS FROM THE CHURCH

“Whoever has a heart full of love always has something to give.”

— Pope John XXIII

 SAY THE PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

GOSPEL

LK 2:41-51 MEMORIAL OF THE IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY

Now his parents went to Jerusalem every year at the feast of the Passover. And when he was twelve years old, they went up according to custom; and when the feast was ended, as they were returning, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. His parents did not know it, but supposing him to be in the company they went a day's journey, and they sought him among their kinsfolk and acquaintances; and when they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem, seeking him. After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions; and all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. And when they saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, "Son, why have you treated us so? Behold, your father and I have been looking for you anxiously." And he said to them, "How is it that you sought me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" And they did not understand the saying which he spoke to them. And he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them; and his mother kept all these things in her heart.

[illegible]

HOW HAVE I SHOWN GENEROSITY IN MY RELATIONSHIP WITH MY WIFE TODAY?

WEEK 2: GENEROSITY AND MY WIFE

JUNE 13, 2021

THOUGHTS FROM THE CHURCH

"Never measure your generosity by what you give, but rather by what you have left."

— Venerable Fulton Sheen

SAY THE PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

GOSPEL

MK 4:26-34

And he said, "The kingdom of God is as if a man should scatter seed upon the ground, and should sleep and rise night and day, and the seed should sprout and grow, he knows not how. The earth produces of itself, first the blade, then the ear, then the full grain in the ear. But when the grain is ripe, at once he puts in the sickle, because the harvest has come." And he said, "With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable shall we use for it? It is like a grain of mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade." With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it; he did not speak to them without a parable, but privately to his own disciples he explained everything.

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HOW HAVE I SHOWN GENEROSITY IN MY RELATIONSHIP WITH MY WIFE TODAY?

[illegible]

WEEK 2: GENEROSITY AND MY WIFE

JUNE 14, 2021

THOUGHTS FROM THE CHURCH

"For it is giving that we receive."

— St. Francis of Assisi



SAY THE PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

GOSPEL

MT 5:38-42

You have heard that it was said, 'An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.' But I say to you, Do not resist one who is evil. But if any one strikes you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also; and if any one would sue you and take your coat, let him have your cloak as well; and if any one forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles. Give to him who begs from you, and do not refuse him who would borrow from you.

[illegible]

HOW HAVE I SHOWN GENEROSITY IN MY RELATIONSHIP WITH MY WIFE TODAY?

WEEK 3 REFLECTION:

GENEROSITY AND MY CHILDREN

**If you are not married and do not have children, use this week to continue to grow your relationship with God and your neighbor while praying for your future spouse and children.*

We have such a tremendous opportunity to be generous as fathers. If you have young children at home now, you know your kids want nothing more than your time and your attention. When they are young, they see you as their hero and any time you turn your gaze on them it excites them. To have time with Daddy is a special thing for little boys and girls. We must never forget that. We need to be generous with our time and with our words when it come to our kids.

As a young boy I can remember my dad teaching me the sport he loved: basketball. I can remember him setting the goal in concrete in the backyard. I can remember him teaching me to dribble. I can remember him teaching me to pass and the correct way to shoot the ball. Those are some of my favorite memories. The only thing I wish is that I had more of them.

My dad worked a lot to provide for us. He didn't miss games or anything like that, but he was always busy. He worked two jobs. When he wasn't at work, he was busy around the house trying to take care of everything that he couldn't do when he was working. were so many days that I wanted him to put away the lawn mower, to put down the mulch bags, and play ball with me. I dreamed of afternoons of shooting ball with my dad and hearing him tell me how proud he was of me. I wanted him to tell me he noticed how much I was practicing and how much it showed. More often than not that didn't happen. Don't get me wrong, my dad was a great father; I just wanted more. I wanted to feel more important than work. I wanted him to tell me how he felt about me. It was hard for him because of the way he was raised and, because of that, those words didn't come often.

I believe all children feel this way. They want to feel important to us. They want to feel as though they matter and that we are proud of them. My wife, Angela, pointed out to me the other day that anytime our son, Jacob, does anything, the first person he looks at is me. He wants to know that I saw it. He desires my attention and my affirmation. So often, though, we are too busy looking down at our phones and being caught up in the rat race of life to see this. We develop a mentality that our kids should know how we feel about them because of all the work we put in on their behalf. That's how we deal with not sharing our time and words of affirmation with them. We tell ourselves our actions should speak for themselves.

Men, that isn't good enough. Our kids need us to be active and present in their lives. They need us to be generous with our time, even when we don't think we have it to give. The most important thing we can ever do is to be a great father to our children. God gave us that responsibility as fathers. We need to be a St. Joseph to our own kids. We need to spend more time taking interest in things that interest them. We need to participate in the lives of our children with our eyes wide open and mouths full of encouraging words. If we are not preaching to our children their worth and their dignity you can sure bet that the world will be preaching a different message to them.

The best way we can convey our love to our children is through our generosity. Our generosity with our words and with our time. Buying things for your children will never replace quality time with them. Words of affirmation from somewhere else will never have the impact of the affirmation from a father. Brothers, let's stop talking about being good fathers, and actually do it! If you are an older man with children who are now grown and out on their own, then still be a good father. If you and your children are still alive and breathing, you have time to be a good father. Let's be intentional moving forward about generosity with our children. Work will always be there. The yard can be mowed later. Take advantage of every second you have with your kids. Make sure that their memories of you are full of your time and your generous words.

WEEK 3: GENEROSITY AND MY CHILDREN

JUNE 15, 2021

THOUGHTS FROM THE CHURCH

"It's not how much we give, but how much love we put into giving."

—St. Teresa of Calcutta

 SAY THE PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

GOSPEL

MT 5:43-48

You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven; for he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. For if you love those who love you, what reward have you? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? And if you salute only your brethren, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? You, therefore, must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

WHAT IS GOD SAYING TO ME IN THIS GOSPEL?

ACTS OF GENEROSITY

HOW HAVE I SHOWN GENEROSITY IN MY RELATIONSHIP WITH MY CHILDREN TODAY?

WEEK 3: GENEROSITY AND MY CHILDREN

JUNE 16, 2021

THOUGHTS FROM THE CHURCH

"Let us encourage the generosity which is typical of the young and help them to work actively in building a better world. Youth do not solely need material things. Above all, they need to have those non-material values which are the spiritual heart of a people ... spirituality, generosity, solidarity, perseverance, fraternity, and joy."

—Pope Francis

SAY THE PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

GOSPEL

MT 6:1-6, 16-18

Beware of practicing your piety before men in order to be seen by them; for then you will have no reward from your Father who is in heaven. "Thus, when you give alms, sound no trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may be praised by men. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your alms may be in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. "And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, that they may be seen by men. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

And when you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces that their fasting may be seen by men. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, that your fasting may not be seen by men but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

WHAT IS GOD SAYING TO ME IN THIS GOSPEL?

ACTS OF GENEROSITY

HOW HAVE I SHOWN GENEROSITY IN MY RELATIONSHIP WITH MY CHILDREN TODAY?

WEEK 3: GENEROSITY AND MY CHILDREN

JUNE 17, 2021

THOUGHTS FROM THE CHURCH

"Jesus does not say 'no' to the authentic demands of the heart, but only a clear, loud 'yes' to life, to love, to freedom, to peace and to hope. With Him no goal is impossible and even a small act of generosity grows and can lead to change."

—St. John Paul II

SAY THE PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

GOSPEL

MT 6:7-15

"And in praying do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do; for they think that they will be heard for their many words. Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him. Pray then like this: Our Father who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, On earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; And forgive us our debts, As we also have forgiven our debtors; And lead us not into temptation, But deliver us from evil. For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father also will forgive you; but if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses."

WHAT IS GOD SAYING TO ME IN THIS GOSPEL?

ACTS OF GENEROSITY

HOW HAVE I SHOWN GENEROSITY IN MY RELATIONSHIP WITH MY CHILDREN TODAY?

WEEK 3: GENEROSITY AND MY CHILDREN

JUNE 18, 2021

THOUGHTS FROM THE CHURCH

"I am asked for very little compared to how much I am being given."

—St. Josemaria Escriva



SAY THE PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

GOSPEL

MT 6:19-23

Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also. "The eye is the lamp of the body. So, if your eye is sound, your whole body will be full of light; but if your eye is not sound, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light in you is darkness, how great is the darkness!

WHAT IS GOD SAYING TO ME IN THIS GOSPEL?

ACTS OF GENEROSITY

HOW HAVE I SHOWN GENEROSITY IN MY RELATIONSHIP WITH MY CHILDREN TODAY?

WEEK 3: GENEROSITY AND MY CHILDREN

JUNE 19, 2021

THOUGHTS FROM THE CHURCH

"You will be enriched in every way for great generosity, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God"

—2 Corinthians 9:11

 SAY THE PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

GOSPEL

MT 6:24-34

No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon. "Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you shall eat or what you shall drink, nor about your body, what you shall put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And which of you by being anxious can add one cubit to his span of life? And why are you anxious about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin; yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is alive and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you, O men of little faith? Therefore do not be anxious, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the Gentiles seek all these things; and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things shall be yours as well. "Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Let the day's own trouble be sufficient for the day.

WHAT IS GOD SAYING TO ME IN THIS GOSPEL?

ACTS OF GENEROSITY

HOW HAVE I SHOWN GENEROSITY IN MY RELATIONSHIP WITH MY CHILDREN TODAY?

WEEK 3: GENEROSITY AND MY CHILDREN

JUNE 20, 2021

THOUGHTS FROM THE CHURCH

"Give, and it will be given to you; good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For the measure you give will be the measure you get back."

—Luke 6:38



SAY THE PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

GOSPEL

MK 4:35-41

On that day, when evening had come, he said to them, "Let us go across to the other side." And leaving the crowd, they took him with them in the boat, just as he was. And other boats were with him. And a great storm of wind arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that the boat was already filling. But he was in the stern, asleep on the cushion; and they woke him and said to him, "Teacher, do you not care if we perish?" And he awoke and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, "Peace! Be still!" And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm. He said to them, "Why are you afraid? Have you no faith?" And they were filled with awe, and said to one another, "Who then is this, that even wind and sea obey him?"

WHAT IS GOD SAYING TO ME IN THIS GOSPEL?

ACTS OF GENEROSITY

HOW HAVE I SHOWN GENEROSITY IN MY RELATIONSHIP WITH MY CHILDREN TODAY?

WEEK 3: GENEROSITY AND MY CHILDREN

JUNE 21, 2021

THOUGHTS FROM THE CHURCH

"The measure of your success will be the measure of your generosity."

—St. John Paul II

 SAY THE PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

GOSPEL

MT 7:1-5 MEMORIAL OF SAINT ALOYSIUS GONZAGA, RELIGIOUS

Judge not, that you be not judged. For with the judgment, you pronounce you will be judged, and the measure you give will be the measure you get. Why do you see the speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye? Or how can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' when there is the log in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother's eye.

WHAT IS GOD SAYING TO ME IN THIS GOSPEL?

ACTS OF GENEROSITY

HOW HAVE I SHOWN GENEROSITY IN MY RELATIONSHIP WITH MY CHILDREN TODAY?

WEEK 4 REFLECTION:

GENEROSITY AND MY NEIGHBOR

By now, you are probably thinking, "Ok, John, this is getting unoriginal." Hahaha. The thing is, there is no secret game plan to being generous. Our generosity needs to be conveyed through our time, talents, and treasure. This is no different when it comes to our neighbors.

We live in a world where people are growing more and more hostile to each other. People are constantly tearing each other down and using hateful words to describe each other. The world is trying to make us believe that everybody is racist and that we should all hate each other. This is just flat out wrong. Jesus told us to love our neighbor as ourselves. As a King He came to serve, and it can be no different for us. There are people hurting all around us and they are in dire need of our generosity. They need us to be generous with the gift of our finances. As Americans we spend money on so many of our whims each and every day and then claim we have nothing left over to give. We constantly drive past the homeless and allow them to fend for themselves. We pass up opportunities to give our time serving at soup kitchens or ministries like Room at the Inn for other things we would rather be doing. Jesus told us that whatever we do for the least of these, we do for Him. The opposite of that is also true. Whatever we don't do for our neighbor, we have not done for Him.

Gifts are meant to be given. They are meant to be received and then passed on. We need to fight the urge to hoard the things that God has blessed us with. We need to open our hearts and allow charity to flow through our acts of generosity. We need to start greeting people with kindness again. We need to hold doors for people and learn to be generous with our smiles and our greetings. We need to lift people up instead of tearing them down. How about the next time we cross paths with a homeless person, we give them the benefit of the doubt and help them instead of thinking the worst of them? How about the next time we disagree with someone, we meet them with kind, respectful words and understanding? It is easy to be generous with hate and criticism. It takes real virtue to be generous with the opposite.

In this final week of the month, let's really put into practice the virtue of generosity. Let's actively look for ways in which we can serve others with our time, talent and treasure. There are opportunities to serve others all around you. Take a look at how you have been blessed lately and see how much of that blessing you can share with others. Maybe it's kind words because you have been blessed to receive them lately. Maybe it's giving more in a tithe at church or giving a little more to the homeless guy in the street from the bonus check you just received. It could be picking up a shift in the soup kitchen for the first time in your life or helping a friend with a project. Whatever the case may be, open your eyes this week to all the opportunities God places in front of you to be generous with your neighbor. I think you'll be amazed at what you find.

WEEK 4: GENEROSITY AND MY NEIGHBOR

JUNE 22, 2021

THOUGHTS FROM THE CHURCH

What does love look like? It has the hands to help others. It has the feet to hasten to the poor and needy. It has eyes to see misery and want. It has the ears to hear the sighs and sorrows of men. That is what love looks like."

—St. Augustine of Hippo



SAY THE PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

GOSPEL

MT 7:6, 12-14

Do not give dogs what is holy; and do not throw your pearls before swine, lest they trample them under foot and turn to attack you.

So whatever you wish that men would do to you, do so to them; for this is the law and the prophets. "Enter by the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the way is easy, that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many. For the gate is narrow and the way is hard, that leads to life, and those who find it are few.

WHAT IS GOD SAYING TO ME IN THIS GOSPEL?

ACTS OF GENEROSITY

HOW HAVE I SHOWN GENEROSITY IN MY RELATIONSHIP
WITH MY NEIGHBOR TODAY?

WEEK 4: GENEROSITY AND MY NEIGHBOR

JUNE 23, 2021

THOUGHTS FROM THE CHURCH

"Joy is a sign of generosity. When you are full of joy, you move faster and you want to go about doing good for good for everybody."

—St. Teresa of Calcutta



SAY THE PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

GOSPEL

MT 7:15-20

Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves. You will know them by their fruits. Are grapes gathered from thorns, or figs from thistles? So, every sound tree bears good fruit, but the bad tree bears evil fruit. A sound tree cannot bear evil fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Thus you will know them by their fruits.

[illegible]

HOW HAVE I SHOWN GENEROSITY IN MY RELATIONSHIP WITH MY NEIGHBOR TODAY?

WEEK 4: GENEROSITY AND MY NEIGHBOR

JUNE 24, 2021

THOUGHTS FROM THE CHURCH

"For joy cannot be dissociated from sharing. In God Himself, all is joy because all is giving."

—Pope St. Paul VI

SAY THE PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

GOSPEL

LK 1:57-66, 80 SOLEMNITY OF THE NATIVITY OF SAINT JOHN THE BAPTIST

Now the time came for Elizabeth to be delivered, and she gave birth to a son. And her neighbors and kinsfolk heard that the Lord had shown great mercy to her, and they rejoiced with her. And on the eighth day they came to circumcise the child; and they would have named him Zechari'ah after his father, but his mother said, "Not so; he shall be called John." And they said to her, "None of your kindred is called by this name." And they made signs to his father, inquiring what he would have him called. And he asked for a writing tablet, and wrote, "His name is John." And they all marveled. And immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue loosed, and he spoke, blessing God. And fear came on all their neighbors. And all these things were talked about through all the hill country of Judea; and all who heard them laid them up in their hearts, saying, "What then will this child be?" For the hand of the Lord was with him.

And the child grew and became strong in spirit, and he was in the wilderness till the day of his manifestation to Israel.

[illegible]

HOW HAVE I SHOWN GENEROSITY IN MY RELATIONSHIP WITH MY NEIGHBOR TODAY?

WEEK 4: GENEROSITY AND MY NEIGHBOR

JUNE 25, 2021

THOUGHTS FROM THE CHURCH

Help one another with the generosity of the Lord, and despise no one. When you have the opportunity to do good, do not let it go by."

— St. Polycarp of Smyrna



SAY THE PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

GOSPEL

MT 8:1-4

When he came down from the mountain, great crowds followed him; and behold, a leper came to him and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, if you will, you can make me clean." And he stretched out his hand and touched him, saying, "I will; be clean." And immediately his leprosy was cleansed. And Jesus said to him, "See that you say nothing to any one; but go, show yourself to the priest, and offer the gift that Moses commanded, for a proof to the people."

[illegible]

WEEK 4: GENEROSITY AND MY NEIGHBOR

JUNE 26, 2021

THOUGHTS FROM THE CHURCH

"It would be considered a theft on our part if we didn't give to someone in greater need than we are."

—St. Francis of Assisi

SAY THE PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

GOSPEL

MT 8:5-17

As he entered Caper'na-um, a centurion came forward to him, beseeching him and saying, "Lord, my servant is lying paralyzed at home, in terrible distress." And he said to him, "I will come and heal him." But the centurion answered him, "Lord, I am not worthy to have you come under my roof; but only say the word, and my servant will be healed. For I am a man under authority, with soldiers under me; and I say to one, 'Go,' and he goes, and to another, 'Come,' and he comes, and to my slave, 'Do this,' and he does it." When Jesus heard him, he marveled, and said to those who followed him, "Truly, I say to you, not even in Israel have I found such faith. I tell you, many will come from east and west and sit at table with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven, while the sons of the kingdom will be thrown into the outer darkness; their men will weep and gnash their teeth." And to the centurion Jesus said, "Go; be it done for you as you have believed." And the servant was healed at that very moment.

And when Jesus entered Peter's house, he saw his mother-in-law lying sick with a fever; he touched her hand, and the fever left her, and she rose and served him. That evening they brought to him many who were possessed with demons; and he cast out the spirits with a word, and healed all who were sick. This was to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah, "He took our infirmities and bore our diseases."

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HOW HAVE I SHOWN GENEROSITY IN MY RELATIONSHIP WITH MY NEIGHBOR TODAY?

WEEK 4: GENEROSITY AND MY NEIGHBOR

JUNE 27, 2021

THOUGHTS FROM THE CHURCH

"Give something, however small, to the one in need. For it is not small to one who has nothing. Neither is it small to God, if we have given what we could."

—St. Gregory Nazianzen



GOSPEL

MK 5:21-43

And when Jesus had crossed again in the boat to the other side, a great crowd gathered about him; and he was beside the sea. Then came one of the rulers of the synagogue, Ja'irus by name; and seeing him, he fell at his feet, and besought him, saying, "My little daughter is at the point of death. Come and lay your hands on her, so that she may be made well, and live." And he went with him.

And a great crowd followed him and thronged about him. And there was a woman who had had a flow of blood for twelve years, and who had suffered much under many physicians, and had spent all that she had, and was no better but rather grew worse. She had heard the reports about Jesus and came up behind him in the crowd and touched his garment. For she said, "If I touch even his garments, I shall be made well." And immediately the hemorrhage ceased; and she felt in her body that she was healed of her disease. And Jesus, perceiving in himself that power had gone forth from him, immediately turned about in the crowd, and said, "Who touched my garments?" And his disciples said to him, "You see the crowd pressing around you, and yet you say, 'Who touched me?'" And he looked around to see who had done it. But the woman, knowing what had been done to her, came in fear and trembling and fell down before him, and told him the whole truth. And he said to her, "Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace and be healed of your disease."

While he was still speaking, there came from the ruler's house some who said, "Your daughter is dead. Why trouble the Teacher any further?" But ignoring what they said, Jesus said to the ruler of the synagogue, "Do not fear, only believe." And he allowed no one to follow him except Peter and James and John the brother of James. When they came to the house of the ruler of the synagogue, he saw a tumult, and people weeping and wailing loudly. And when he had entered, he said to them, "Why do you make a tumult and weep? The child is not dead but sleeping." And they laughed at him. But he put them all outside, and took the child's father and mother and those who were with him, and went in where the child was. Taking her by the hand he said to her, "Tal'itha cu'mi"; which means, "Little girl, I say to you, arise." And immediately the girl got up and walked (she was twelve years of age), and they were immediately overcome with amazement. And he strictly charged them that no one should know this, and told them to give her something to eat

WHAT IS GOD SAYING TO ME IN THIS GOSPEL?

ACTS OF GENEROSITY

HOW HAVE I SHOWN GENEROSITY IN MY RELATIONSHIP
WITH MY NEIGHBOR TODAY?

WEEK 4: GENEROSITY AND MY NEIGHBOR

JUNE 28, 2021

THOUGHTS FROM THE CHURCH

"The rich man who gives to the poor does not bestow alms but pays a debt."

—St. Ambrose of Milan

 SAY THE PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

GOSPEL

MT 8:18-22 MEMORIAL OF SAINT IRENAEUS, BISHOP AND MARTYR

Now when Jesus saw great crowds around him, he gave orders to go over to the other side. And a scribe came up and said to him, "Teacher, I will follow you wherever you go." And Jesus said to him, "Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of man has nowhere to lay his head." Another of the disciples said to him, "Lord, let me first go and bury my father." But Jesus said to him, "Follow me, and leave the dead to bury their own dead."

WHAT IS GOD SAYING TO ME IN THIS GOSPEL?

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ACTS OF GENEROSITY

HOW HAVE I SHOWN GENEROSITY IN MY RELATIONSHIP WITH MY NEIGHBOR TODAY?

WEEK 4: GENEROSITY AND MY NEIGHBOR

JUNE 29, 2021

THOUGHTS FROM THE CHURCH

If you want God to hear your prayers, hear the voice of the poor. If you wish God to anticipate your wants, provide those of the needy without waiting for them to ask you. Especially anticipate the needs of those who are ashamed to beg. To make them ask for alms is to make them buy it."

—St. Thomas of Villanova

SAY THE PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

GOSPEL

MT 16:13-19 SOLEMNITY OF SAINTS PETER AND PAUL, APOSTLES

Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do men say that the Son of man is?" And they said, "Some say John the Baptist, others say Eli'jah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Simon Peter replied, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jona! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the powers of death shall not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven."

[illegible]

WEEK 4: GENEROSITY AND MY NEIGHBOR

JUNE 30, 2021

THOUGHTS FROM THE CHURCH

“Never reach out your hand unless you’re willing to extend an arm.”

—Pope St. Paul VI



SAY THE PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

GOSPEL

MT 8:28-34

And when he came to the other side, to the country of the Gadarenes, two demoniacs met him, coming out of the tombs, so fierce that no one could pass that way. And behold, they cried out, “What have you to do with us, O Son of God? Have you come here to torment us before the time?” Now a herd of many swine was feeding at some distance from them. And the demons begged him, “If you cast us out, send us away into the herd of swine.” And he said to them, “Go.” So they came out and went into the swine; and behold, the whole herd rushed down the steep bank into the sea, and perished in the waters. The herdsmen fled, and going into the city they told everything, and what had happened to the demoniacs. And behold, all the city came out to meet Jesus; and when they saw him, they begged him to leave their neighborhood.

[illegible]

LITANY OF HUMILITY

O Jesus! meek and humble of heart,
Hear me.

From the desire of being esteemed,
Deliver me, Jesus.

From the desire of being loved,
Deliver me, Jesus.

From the desire of being extolled,
Deliver me, Jesus.

From the desire of being honored ,
Deliver me, Jesus.

From the desire of being praised,
Deliver me, Jesus.

From the desire of being preferred
to others,
Deliver me, Jesus.

From the desire of being consulted,
Deliver me, Jesus.

From the desire of being approved,
Deliver me, Jesus.

From the fear of being humiliated,
Deliver me, Jesus.

From the fear of being despised,
Deliver me, Jesus.

From the fear of suffering rebukes,
Deliver me, Jesus.

From the fear of being calumniated,
Deliver me, Jesus.

From the fear of being forgotten,
Deliver me, Jesus.

From the fear of being ridiculed,
Deliver me, Jesus.

From the fear of being wronged,
Deliver me, Jesus.

From the fear of being suspected,
Deliver me, Jesus.

That others may be loved more than I,
Jesus, grant me the grace to desire it.

That others may be esteemed more than I,
Jesus, grant me the grace to desire it.

That, in the opinion of the world, others
may increase and I may decrease,
Jesus, grant me the grace to desire it.

That others may be chosen and I set aside,
Jesus, grant me the grace to desire it.

That others may be praised and
I unnoticed,

Jesus, grant me the grace to desire it.

That others may be preferred to me
in everything,

Jesus, grant me the grace to desire it.

That others may become holier than I,
provided that I may become as holy as
I should,

Jesus, grant me the grace to desire it.

THE LITANY OF TRUST

From the belief that I have to earn
Your love,

Deliver me, Jesus.

From the fear that I am unlovable,

Deliver me, Jesus.

From the false security that I have what
it takes,

Deliver me, Jesus.

From the fear that trusting You will leave
me more destitute,

Deliver me, Jesus.

From all suspicion of Your words
and promises,

Deliver me, Jesus.

From the rebellion against childlike
dependency on You,

Deliver me, Jesus.

From refusals and reluctances in
accepting Your will,

Deliver me, Jesus.

From anxiety about the future,

Deliver me, Jesus.

From resentment or excessive
preoccupation with the past,

Deliver me, Jesus.

From restless self-seeking
in the present moment,

Deliver me, Jesus.

From disbelief in Your love and presence,

Deliver me, Jesus.

From the fear of being asked to give
more than I have,

Deliver me, Jesus.

From the belief that my life has no
meaning or worth,

Deliver me, Jesus.

From the fear of what love demands,

Deliver me, Jesus.

From discouragement,

Deliver me, Jesus.

That You are continually holding me
sustaining me, loving me,

Jesus, I trust in you.

That Your love goes deeper than my sins
and failings, and transforms me,

Jesus, I trust in you.

That not knowing what tomorrow brings is
an invitation to lean on You,

Jesus, I trust in you.

That you are with me in my suffering,

Jesus, I trust in you.

That my suffering, united to Your own, will
bear fruit in this life and the next,

Jesus, I trust in you.

That You will not leave me orphan, that You
are present in Your Church,

Jesus, I trust in you.

That Your plan is better than anything else,

Jesus, I trust in you.

That You always hear me and in Your
goodness always respond to me,

Jesus, I trust in you.

That You give me the grace to accept
forgiveness and to forgive others,

Jesus, I trust in you.

That You give me all the strength I need for
what is asked,

Jesus, I trust in you.

That my life is a gift,

Jesus, I trust in you.

That You will teach me to trust You,

Jesus, I trust in you.

That You are my Lord and my God,

Jesus, I trust in you.

That I am Your beloved one,

Jesus, I trust in you.

PRAYER TO SAINT JOSEPH

To you, O blessed Joseph, do we come in our tribulation, and having implored the help of your most holy Spouse, we confidently invoke your patronage also. Through that charity which bound you to the Immaculate Virgin Mother of God and through the paternal love with which you embraced the Child Jesus, we humbly beg you graciously to regard the inheritance which Jesus Christ has purchased by his Blood, and with your power and strength to aid us in our necessities. O most watchful guardian of the Holy Family, defend the chosen children of Jesus Christ; O most loving father, ward off from us every contagion of error and corrupting influence; O our most mighty protector, be kind to us and from heaven assist us in our struggle with the power of darkness. As once you rescued the Child Jesus from deadly peril, so now protect God's Holy Church from the snares of the enemy and from all adversity; shield, too, each one of us by your constant protection, so that, supported by your example and your aid, we may be able to live piously, to die in holiness, and to obtain eternal happiness in heaven. Amen.

A photograph of two men sitting at a wooden table in a cafe, engaged in conversation. The man on the left is wearing a blue plaid shirt and holding a red mug. The man on the right is wearing a grey sweater and gesturing with his hands. In the background, there are shelves with books, a sign that says "LOCAL", and large windows. A blue and yellow curved graphic element is at the bottom left.

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