

## Sacrificial Giving is Life Giving

The Eucharist we celebrate on Sundays is a celebration of our basic Christian sense of life and how it should be lived. We celebrate it there not only because bread and wine are to be transformed into the presence of Jesus, but because all of life is to be transformed. We are eucharistic people because the Eucharist is the center of our worship. But the Eucharist has this central liturgical role because it is at the center of our sense of who we are and what we are about in the world. This fundamental eucharistic approach to life will shape how we give of our time, talent and treasure.

Sacrificial giving, stewardship and tithing are all important themes in our lives as Christians. We need to pay attention to them. But they should not stand out by themselves as themes and actions which have little to do with the rest of our lives. They should be anchored in a Christian sense of who we are and what we are called to do as disciples of Jesus; of who God is and how God is active in our midst; and of how we see the fundamental dynamics of life in our world.

Where we break bread and remember the Lord and continue to do what he taught us to do with our lives, Jesus is present and continues to work in our midst. What we do with bread, we do with life and with time, talent and treasure God has given us. Eucharist is not an isolated act, but a liturgical symbol of how we see life and understand God. As a liturgical symbol, it shapes our vision and actions and should lead naturally toward lives that are marked by sacrificial giving.

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