

Thoughts on Giving

April- June 2004

April 4, 2004: Palm Sunday

"For who is the greater: the one seated at table or the one who serves? Is it not the one seated at table? I am among you as the one who serves." Luke 22:27

One of the most important lessons Jesus taught was taught at the Last Supper when He reminded us we are called to serve. Jesus was the perfect steward, giving His very life. The gifts that He asks us to share are small compared to the gift He gave for us.

April 11, 2004: Easter

"Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his mercy endures forever." Psalm 118:1

On this day we thank God for His Son, Jesus, who died and arose for us. We celebrate and sing "Alleluia." But how do we show our gratitude all year to the Lord who spread out His arms on the cross to save us and show us the way to salvation?

April 18, 2004: 2nd Sunday of Easter

"Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.'" John 20:21

Peace – the first gift of the risen Lord. As Jesus sent the apostles out into the world to share His peace and Good News, He also sends us. The **Archdiocesan Development Appeal** provides countless opportunities to share His peace with our brothers and sisters next door to us and in the far corners of the Archdiocese. In giving to help support these programs, you will receive the peace of Christ – for *"In Giving, We Receive."*

April 25, 2004: 3rd Sunday of Easter

"Peter was distressed that Jesus had said to him a third time, 'Do you love me?' and he said to him, 'Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you.' Jesus said to him, 'Feed my sheep.'" John 21:17

All of us are challenged to show our love for Jesus by "feeding His sheep." We are called to use our time, talent and treasure to help those who are less fortunate. One way that we can do this is through the **Archdiocesan Development Appeal**. Ask yourself if you give to the ADA in fair proportion to the many blessing that God has given to you.

May 2, 2004: 4th Sunday of Easter

"My sheep hear my voice. I know them and they follow me." John 10:27

We hear the voice of our Shepherd in many ways. His word comes to us everyday through our Catholic schools and youth ministries, our parish family life, our archdiocesan social ministries, special programs and agencies.

May 9, 2004: 5th Sunday of Easter

"I give you a new commandment: love one another. As I have loved you, so you also should love one another." John 13:34

Jesus didn't just say He loved us. He put His love into action by healing the sick, giving hope to the hopeless and ultimately dying on the cross for us. We, too, are called to put our love into action.

May 16, 2004: 6th Sunday of Easter

"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give it to you." John 14:27

The world cannot give us peace. Worldly possessions, prosperity, power and prestige cannot give us peace. The only real peace comes when we put God first in our lives.

May 23, 2004: 7th Sunday of Easter

"I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end." Revelations 22:13

These words are from the very last chapter of the Bible. They are a final reminder for us to put God first in our lives. Putting God first doesn't mean giving until it hurts. Putting God first means giving time, talent and treasure at a level that fills you with joy and contentment. That is often a level that is way beyond what you once might have thought would have hurt.

May 30, 2004: Pentecost Sunday

"To each individual the manifestation of the Spirit is given for some benefit." 1 Corinthians 12:7

The Holy Spirit has blessed us with many gifts, with talents and knowledge and qualities that are uniquely our own. Why has God so blessed us? For our own enrichment? Or for some other reason?

June 6, 2004: Trinity Sunday

"But when he comes, the Spirit of truth, he will guide you to all truth." John 16:13

Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to help us know the truth and to help us live in a way that is pleasing to Our Father. So why not ask the Holy Spirit the truth about your stewardship. Are you giving a fair amount back to God? Are you sharing your time and talent with God and others? Do you give a planned and proportionate amount of your treasure to do the work of the Lord? Do you hear the Spirit's answer to those questions in your heart? What more is He calling you to do?

June 13, 2004: Feast of Corpus Christi

"They all ate and were satisfied. And when the leftover fragments were picked up, they filled twelve wicker baskets." Luke 9:17

The story of the Loaves and Fishes shows us that when we share what we have - even if it doesn't seem like that much - miracles can happen. God blesses the gifts we offer and makes them wondrous.

June 20, 2004: 12th Sunday in Ordinary Time

"Through faith you are all children of God in Christ Jesus...And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's descendant, heirs according to the promise." Galatians 3:26,29

If we belong to God, then everything we have belongs to God. Have you ever taken a moment to figure out how much of your time, talent and treasure you return to God? Is it a fitting return?

June 27, 2004: 13th Sunday in Ordinary Time

*"The whole law is fulfilled in one statement, namely, **You shall love your neighbor as your self.**" Galatians 5:14*

When you think of your neighbor do you think of the person that has more than you and thus feel justified in acquiring more? Or do you think of the homeless and starving who need your help?