



GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AMERICA

METROPOLIS OF CHICAGO

GENEROSITY & GRATITUDE

SIX POINTS ON STEWARDSHIP AND GENEROSITY

GIVING & GENEROSITY IN THE BIBLE

- From **Genesis 28:20-22**: (Jacob offers a tithe) Jacob made a vow (to God), "If God will be with me and will watch over me...all that You give me I will give You a tenth."
- To **Acts 20:35**: (Remember Jesus' words when he said) "It is more blessed to give than to receive".
- Exodus 35, 36 - Leviticus 27 - Numbers 18 - Deuteronomy 14, 16, 28 - Amos 4 - 1Chronicles 29 - 2 Chronicles 31 - Nehemiah 12, 13 - Malachi 1, 3 - 1Kings 17 - Hagai 1 - Proverbs 3, 18, 28 - Ezra 2
- Matthew 6, 23, 25 - Mark 12 - Luke 6,18 - 1John 3 - 1Corinthians 16 - 2Corinthians 8,9 - 1Timothy 6 - Romans 12 - Hebrews 6, 7, 13 - Galatians 6 - Acts 2

#1 MORE THAN MONEY

- “ I DON’T HAVE ENOUGH MONEY TO BE TRULY GENEROUS”
 - ❖ Giving is for everyone – Not only the wealthy
 - ❖ Generosity is not Transactional – It is Relational
 - ❖ Not sending food to the tables of poor people but inviting the poor people to our tables
 - ❖ Relational Generosity becomes Sacrificial Generosity
- “For they all contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty has put in all she had, her whole livelihood.” The Widow’s Offering Mark12:44
 - It is not the amount that counts with God, but the degree of sacrifice out of our possessions

MUST GIVE WITH JOY AND FROM THE HEART



#2 FIRST AND FINEST (NOT LEAST AND LEFTOVERS)

- God does not need our gifts
- We are called to give God our best because:
 1. He is worthy of our gift
 2. It is a tangible way to put Him first in our lives
- When we give our First and Finest, we acknowledge the position that God has in our lives
- It is not about checking a box that a certain percentage was given. It is about the heart with which we give. Sacrificial giving reflects our heart

“It is the Heart that does the giving. The fingers only let go” Nigerian proverb



#3 WARNING: GENEROUS GIVING CAN BE SCARY (INITIALLY)

- ❖ It can cause Discomfort, Fear and Skepticism
- ❖ It takes us out of our comfort zone
- ❖ It requires Faith and dependence on Christ
- ❖ Study about it
- ❖ Pray about it
- ❖ Talk about it

#4 GENEROSITY IS TAUGHT

- Plenty of organizations and resources teaching Generosity
 - ❖ Lilly Family School of Philanthropy – Lake Institute of Faith & Giving
 - ❖ The Generosity Project (ELCA)
 - ❖ Tithe.ly
 - ❖ Generousgiving.org
 - ❖ Joyfulgiving.net
- We should be teaching Generosity in our Parishes
 - ❖ Generous givers are created by learning, planning and engaging

#5 GENEROSITY IS CAUGHT

- More importantly we should PRACTICE Generosity
 - ❖ People respond better to Generosity lived out in front of their eyes
 - ❖ It starts from the TOP
 - ❖ Church leadership modeling Generosity of spirit, relationship, finance, community all serves to call forth the Generosity of others
 - ❖ Our Generosity has the potential to be a powerful and irrefutable defender of our faith
 - ❖ In our secularized, humanistic, technological world the Church is fighting for influence and relevance
 - ❖ When words are suspect, actions born from living our faith are hard to deny
 - ❖ Giving a tiny percentage of our leftovers begrudgingly has no impact
 - ❖ By moving from TRANSACTIONAL ➡ RELATIONAL ➡ SACRIFICIAL GIVING, we mirror Christ as we become the light on top of the hill for all to see and want to imitate

#6 GRATITUDE

- “The major difference between the fund-raising work of major charitable organizations and that of church is that in charitable organizations donors are THANKED for their contributions” Lyle Schaller Consultant/Author
- Gratitude to each other = Gratitude to God
- It is not hard
 - ❖ HANDWRITTEN notes of thanks
 - ❖ Each week/month make X personal contacts, X phone calls, X thank you notes, X emails thanking people for their gifts

AN EXAMPLE

- Saint Anna Greek Orthodox Christian Church, Roseville CA (www.saintanna.org)
- Since 1998; about 250 households
- 100% Stewardship supported
- Average yearly gift \$1,600
- How they do it
 - ❖ A four ladies Stewardship team
 - ❖ Teaching Generosity to children in Sunday School
 - ❖ Personal touch through Handwritten communication
 - ❖ Give with Joy and from the Heart

PERSONAL INVITATION

Renie Carr
9175 Lariat Ct.
Fair Oaks, CA 95628

Dear Vinny and Felicia,
With pleasure I write to you in Christ Jesus.
Thank you for being faithful stewards of
our loving, welcoming and growing family
here at St. Anna's.

We do not have annual pledge drives.
This year we are updating our stewardship
base. I have enclosed your personal gift
card along with a giving chart to guide you
in what you consider a good gift. Please
think about your gift, pray about it and
return the card to the church. It will
remain on file until you wish to change it.

All gifts are deeply appreciated.
Your gift enables us to continue our
many ministries ~~to~~ the glory of God.

With love in Christ,

Renie

Phyllis Dindio
307 Alpine Falls Drive
Folsom, CA 95630
(916) 989-0100

Now
Steward
pledge card

teenager

Dear Melissa,

I welcome you as a new steward
of St. Anna's and am so happy you
have chosen to become a member of
our church family.

I have enclosed a pledge card
for you to fill out and return to the
church with a gift that is appropriate
for you. It is a great privilege to be
able to give to our church and I hope
you find much joy in doing so.

No one is ever told how much to
give, however, I hope you pray about
it, complete your pledge card, and then
please return it to the church. It
is nice to have our younger people become
stewards, and hopefully, you will be a
good example to your peers.

Again, welcome, and let me know if
you have any questions.

With Love in Christ,

Phyllis Dindio

OFTEN MEMBERS WONDER:

"What is a good gift to the church?"

Here is a suggestion that has helped others.

CONSIDER COMMITTING

\$1 per thousand of combined household income per week
as a MINIMUM gift to our ministries.

FOR EXAMPLE:

Income

Minimum gift

\$50,000 per year

\$50 per week

\$70,000 per year

\$70 per week

\$90,000 per year

\$90 per week

\$125,000 per year

\$125 per week

\$200,000 per year

\$200 per week

TEACHING CHILDREN

