Week 4 (November 23/24): Be Generous!

The Third Characteristic of Discipleship at SEAS is “SHARE”: Growing disciples are generous. Sharing our God-given gifts of time, talent, and treasure are at the heart of the Christian life.

Think about your treasure. Are you a good steward of the treasure God has entrusted to you? Are you grateful for the money and possessions that flow through your life? Are you generous with the things you have? Are you generous with the money you have at your disposal?

Each of us must prayerfully consider what God is calling us to in this area—in all the areas “time, talent and treasure” and set intentional goals for ourselves accordingly. (p. 133)

Prior to meeting as a group, attend Mass and read over Fr. Mark’s message for the corresponding week, found on the parish website: www.seasp.org.

Opening Prayer: Read and reflect on this past Sunday’s Second Reading
  o COLOSSIANS 1:12-20 (Reading found on the back)
  o What word or phrase stuck out to you in this reading? Why?

As a group:
  ➢ Watch the Week 2 message series video on “SHARE” from the St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Website: www.seasp.org
    o Giving Moments—What touched you?

Individual Reflection or Discussion Questions-

As a group discuss the following from your weekly reading and reflection:

1. What from the message video and/or homily stood out to you this week and why?
2. God’s promise is that he will provide for our needs, not that he will provide for our greed. Do you trust that God will provide for you?
3. Why do you think Catholics are at the “bottom” in terms of giving financially to their parish?
4. “God loves a cheerful giver”. Why do you think this phrase is difficult for people when discussing their finances?
5. What obstacles do you think might keep people from “giving to their parish family financially”?
6. Each of us must prayerfully consider what God is calling us to in all the areas “time, talent and treasure” and set intentional goals for ourselves accordingly. What goals would you like to set for these areas?
7. What is your biggest “take away” from this SHARE message series?
   o What is your “response” going to be?
Weekly LEARN Challenge: St. John tells us in his gospel (John 3:16) that “God so loved the world that he gave us his only Son that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.” God gave all that he had by dying on the cross. We believe in a GENEROUS God. God’s generosity is a model for our generosity. Hence, sharing our treasure is not so much about an obligation or duty but rather it is about the heart, about our relationship with God.

- Generosity challenge: Take some time over the next week or two and calculate what you gave to your church, charities and people in need last year as a percentage of your annual income. Once you have that number, consider giving 1 percent more this year.

Closing Prayer: Read the following prayer together-Almighty God, my parish is composed of people like me. I help make it what it is. It will be friendly if I am. It will be holy if I am. Its pews will be filled if I help fill them. It will do great work if I work. It will be prayerful if I pray. It will make generous gifts to many causes if I am a generous giver. It will bring other people into worship if I invite and bring them. It will be a parish family of loyalty and love, of fearlessness and faith, of compassion, charity, and mercy if I-who make it what it is-are filled with these same qualities. Therefore, with the help of God, I will dedicate myself to the task of being all the things that I want my parish to be. Bless my journey, Lord God, that I might build the Church through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

2nd Reading COLOSSIANS 1:12-20

Brothers and sisters:
Let us give thanks to the Father,
who has made you fit to share
in the inheritance of the holy ones in light.
He delivered us from the power of darkness
and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son,
in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

He is the image of the invisible God,
the firstborn of all creation. For in him were created all things in heaven and on earth, the visible and the invisible,
whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers;
all things were created through him and for him.
He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.
He is the head of the body, the church.
He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things he himself might be preeminent. For in him all the fullness was pleased to dwell,
and through him to reconcile all things for him,
making peace by the blood of his cross
through him, whether those on earth or those in heaven.