

GENEROSITY The 12th virtue of a good teacher

Let us remember that we are in the holy presence of God.

Opening Song Fill my house

1. Fill my house un - to the full -
est. Eat my bread
and drink my wine. The
love I bear is held from no-
one. Chorus All I own and all I
do I give to you.

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It features a treble and bass clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 3/4 time signature. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. The piano accompaniment consists of chords and simple rhythmic patterns.

2. Take my time unto the fullest.
Find in me the trust you seek,
and take my hands to you outreaching,

3. Christ our Lord with love enormous
from the cross his lesson taught
to love all men as I have loved you,

4. Join with me as One in Christ-love,
May our hearts all beat as one,
and may we give ourselves completely,

Words and Music: Peter Kearney

Reading from Brother Agathon 1785, translated by Brother Gerard Rummery 1998

Generosity is a virtue which makes us sacrifice voluntarily our personal interests to those of our neighbour. It is not a common or very ordinary virtue, but a very noble one and is perhaps the root of all great virtue.

Generosity rises above injuries which it never seeks to avenge save by doing good. It rises above contradiction, boredom, the efforts required by constant labour, above all that is most difficult, most irksome, in order to bring up children properly.

It seeks to make others happy, whether by instructions or by advice or by good example. It procures for them all the help it can; it takes pity on their weakness; it forearms them against evil habits; it makes them acquire good ones.

To acquire the virtue of generosity the teacher must prize his task. He should carry it out with affection, with no other motive than his neighbour's benefit and God's glory.

Our response from *1 Corinthians 13*

Side One: I may be able to speak the languages of human beings and even of angels, but if I have no love, my speech is no more than a noisy gong or a clanging bell.

Side Two: I may have the gift of inspired preaching, I may have all knowledge and understand all secrets, I may have all the faith needed to move mountains but if I have no love, I am nothing.

Side One: I may give away everything I have, and even give up my body to be burnt but if I have no love, this does me no good.

Side Two: Love is patient and kind; it is not jealous or conceited or proud. Love is not ill-mannered or selfish or irritable.

Side One: Love does not keep a record of wrongs; love is not happy with evil, but is happy with the truth.

Side Two: Love never gives up; and its faith, hope, and patience never fail. These three remain: faith, hope, and love; and the greatest of these is love.

All: Glory be to the Father ... Amen.

Pause for quiet reflection

Reading from *Bread for the Journey* by Henri J M Nouwen

God is a God of abundance, not a God of scarcity. Jesus reveals God's abundance to us when he offers so much bread to the people that there are twelve large baskets with leftover scraps, and when he makes his disciples catch so many fish that their boat nearly sinks. God doesn't give us just enough. God gives us more than enough: more bread and fish than we can eat, more love than we dared to ask for.

God is a generous giver, but we can only see and enjoy God's generosity when we love him with all of our hearts, minds and strength. As long as we say: "I will love you, God, but first show me your generosity", we will remain distant from God and unable to experience what he truly wants to give us, which is life and life in abundance.

When we live with this mind-set, we will see the miracle that what we give away multiplies: food, knowledge, love... Everything. There will even be many leftovers.

Our response from *15th Meditation for the Time of Retreat by John Baptist de La Salle*

Side One: God is so good that he does not leave unrewarded the good work that is done for him and the service that is rendered to him, especially for the salvation of souls.

Side Two: If it is true that God rewards so generously those who have left all things for him, with how much more reason will he reward those who have devoted themselves with zeal to spread his kingdom.

Side One: With joy, then, say that the greatest cause of your joy is to proclaim the Gospel free of charge, without having it cost anything to those who hear it.

Side Two: You can expect yet another reward if you devote yourselves generously to your duty and if you have known well how to give your disciples a foundation in the Christian Spirit.

Side One: This is the very special satisfaction you will have when your students grow up and you see them living with justice and piety, keeping free from evil associates, and performing good deeds.

Side Two: How fortunate you ought to consider yourselves, to be working in the field of the Lord, since Our Lord says that the reaper will infallibly receive his reward!

All: Glory be to the Father... Amen.

Pause for quiet reflection

Intercessions

Closing Prayer

All 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 labour and not to ask for reward,
Save that of knowing that I do your will.

Amen

(St. Ignatius of Loyola)

Closing song:

Father in my life I see

Fa - ther, in my life I see, _____ you are

GROUP 2: Fa - ther, in my life I see,

God, who walks with me, _____ You hold my life in your

you are God, who walks with me.

hands: _____ close be - side you I will stand. _____

You hold my life in your hands: _____ close be -

_____ I give all my life to you: _____

side you I will stand. _____ I give all my life to

help me, Fa - ther, to be true. _____

You. _____ true. _____

2 Jesus, in my life I see

3 Spirit, in my life I see

Frank Anderson, MSC

There is more happiness in giving than in receiving. (Acts 20:35)

**St. John Baptist de La Salle, pray for us
Live Jesus in our hearts, forever!**