

Ss. Peter and Paul Catholic Church  
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Collinsville, IL 62234

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Ss. Peter and Paul Catholic Church

## Stewardship As a Way of Life: Choosing to Be a Disciple of Jesus



### Growing Generous Hearts: What Do I Want to Give? How About 1% More?

Last year we introduced the idea of a giving guideline—generally accepted to be 10% of income to charity—5% to the church, 1% to the diocese and 4% to other charities.

Is 10% the right number? Maybe it's 5%, 8% or 15%. The point is to see where you are and decide if this the right place for you. It's not about what I have to give but what do I want to give.

What do you want to give to accomplish God's work here in our parish, our community and the world?

Step One: Calculate what you are currently giving. Is it what you want to give? Do you need to set a "generosity goal"?

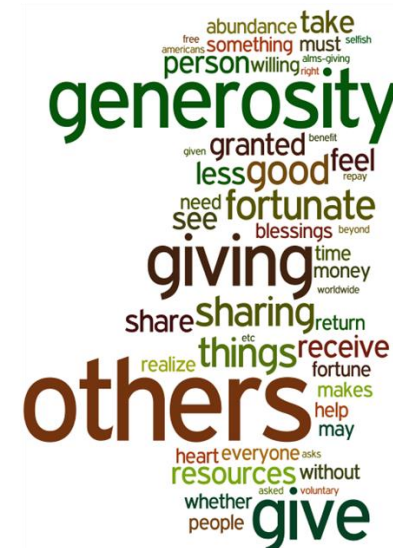
Here is what Matthew Kelly says about a generosity goal: **"Give 1% more of your income this year than you did last year to the church and your favorite charities. Increase this giving percentage by 1% of your income each year until you reach 10% or until it is simply not possible or prudent to give more."**

See the Giving Chart on our website at <http://saintspeter-paul.org/generous-giving/>

It's not always the amount that is important, but the sacrifice we make in line with our means and personal circumstances.

Step Two: Have a giving plan. Write it down. Discuss it. Start with the current percent of giving and add 1% each year until you reach 10%. Write down each year's amount and who you will give it to.

Step Three: Trust in God. He will help you get through the scary thoughts like "where will I get this money?" He will amaze you at where the road to giving will take you as you give of yourself and help others.



For more information call the Parish Office  
at 345-4343 or visit our website at  
[www.saintspeter-paul.org](http://www.saintspeter-paul.org)

#### Dear Brothers and Sisters:

We continue to focus on Stewardship As a Way of Life and our formation as disciples of Jesus Christ. Why? That is what Jesus calls us to do: "Go and make disciples of all nations." We of course need to first answer the call to discipleship. Our "yes" to God starts our conversion process.

It's all about developing and growing our personal relationship with Jesus—accepting Him as Lord and Savior and sharing that good news with others. That is the basis of our Faith—everything else flows from that. This life-long journey of stewardship is built upon a foundation of hospitality, prayer, service and welcoming and inviting all to join us as disciples.

Discipleship is a total conversion to a new way of life that identifies us as followers of Jesus. It's not a "Sunday thing" but something we do all the time. It transforms us. Our gateway to our discipleship conversion is prayer. We must spend that quiet time with God every day to hear His voice. This helps us to recognize His call so that we can then act.

As Pope Francis says, we are "missionary and called to be agents of evangelization." It means that our purpose is to help people enter into a personal relationship with Jesus, focus on making Him the center of their lives, and helping them fall in love with Jesus. This is a little different than some past views of what evangelizing meant when the focus was more on doctrine.

People are hungry for this good news and we are called to deliver it to them. We must embrace stewardship as a way of life. Our salvation depends on it.

No one says it is easy, but it is the only way. The Gospel stories describe the way to follow Jesus,



but many did not accept the challenge—for example, the rich young man. But remember Jesus didn't go after Him. He loved him and was there for him, but the man had to choose to follow in Jesus' footsteps. The choice is the bottom line: We must choose to be disciples.

This year we are also called by Pope Francis to learn about, experience and share God's mercy. The Year of Mercy offers another opportunity to grow our relationship with Jesus as we better understand God's mercy, the role it plays in our lives and the role we play in sharing it with others.

This season we focus on our growing as disciples through gratitude to God for all He has given us and sharing that with others. Disciples have generous hearts that lead them to share what they have -- time, talent and treasure -- which leads to generous service of God and others.

The weekend of June 18-19 we will ask you to make your annual Offertory Gift pledge to God as a sign of your commitment to discipleship. Making our Offertory gift is a powerful moment as we are putting what God has given us back into service for Him.

An Offertory Gift card will be mailed to your home. We are asking you to return it in the envelope at Mass or by mail. No names are required. This is between you and God. But we ask you to return the card to help us know how much you are planning to give so that we can plan God's Work—and hopefully do more of it!

As with any spiritual undertaking, we need to ask for the guidance of the Holy Spirit to help us see what God wants us to do. You and He decide what you want to give!

Peace,

Father John

## How Your Generosity of Time, Talent and Treasure Benefits Our Parish

SOS Soup Kitchen  
1,417 Meals Served

St. Vincent de Paul  
Helped 3,000 people  
2,300 Hours

SSPP School Students  
212

Mending Ministry  
Clothing Mended  
100

**At Ss. Peter Paul, we have more than 60 ministries. Many of them are focused on our spiritual formation needs. But they also touch our lives in areas like social, athletic, health and life events.**

PSR Students  
56

Funerals  
43

**Thousands of hours are spent by staff and volunteers to make these ministries--that mean so much to the lives of our parishioners and community--possible.**

Totus Tuus Participants  
82

Confirmations  
34

**Here are just a few examples of the results of your sharing of your time, talent and treasure.**

Meals on Wheels  
190 Hours

Baptisms  
16

Nursing Home/Assisted Living Visits  
412 Hours

Pre-Cana/  
FOCCUS  
185 Hours

Homebound Visits  
300 hours

## Year of Mercy: Learn, Experience and Share God's Mercy

**In this Year of Mercy, we are looking at our parish ministries which are focusing on the Works of Mercy and expanding their ongoing activities as part of the Year of Mercy.**



She thought about the Township Office (no room) and tried the Senior Center (not much activity). Then she thought of the SOS Soup Kitchen. *Photo: Marty Wieggers (left) and Rita Heimann are members of the new ministry.*

### Cenacle of Mercy Spreads Its Message to Children

As part of its efforts to recognize and celebrate the Year of Mercy, the Sts. Peter and Paul Cenacle of Mercy recently distributed statues of the image of Divine Mercy to each student and a larger one for each classroom to expand the Divine Mercy devotion. The Divine Mercy Cenacle brings people together twice a month to pray, study, serve and spread the message of mercy. A core activity is reading the Diary of St. Faustina and praying the Chaplet of Divine Mercy. *Photo: Mary Helen Kossina presents a statue to Kindergarten teacher Sara Kiefner.)*



Every Thursday, the Ss. Peter and Paul Mending Ministry serves those attending the SOS Soup Kitchen at St. John's Church by mending clothing. This new ministry was developed by Judy Thompson. "I say the Jabez Prayer (which asks God to help you see how you can serve others) frequently," Judy says. "I was watching a news report from New York about a man who rolled his sewing machine around the city and mended needy people's clothing. I said, 'I can do that.'"

### The Power of One Idea

Trying to figure out how to do that in Collinsville was a challenge.



### Giving Tree: Christmas at Easter

For the past few years the parish Giving Tree Ministry has provided Christmas gifts to needy families in Collinsville through the generous donations of parishioners who select tags from the tree, then purchase and wrap gifts. Headed by Debbie Sanders, the ministry extended this act of mercy to the Easter Season. Parishioners selected eggs and purchased items or donated money for special Easter baskets for the 10 families the parish adopted at Christmas. *Photo: Debbie Sanders*



### Taking the Message of Mercy to the Sick and Homebound

As part of its efforts to recognize and celebrate the Year of Mercy, the Pastoral Services ministry at our parish has been growing its efforts to reach out to the sick and homebound with visits and delivering Holy Communion to those who are homebound or in hospitals, long-term care facilities and assisted living.

The ministry also sends cards, follows up with phone calls to those hospitalized, visits hospice patients, and makes referrals for counseling and provider resources for various needs. *Photo: Nora Frazee (left) and Shari Barnish (right) visit Doris Grinnes.*



