

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

The Bible says, “The Lord loves a cheerful giver” (2 Corinthians 9: 6-7) but what does that mean? I think it means that when we give, we should do so with a cheerful heart, but it also means that giving will produce a cheerful heart, and that this leads to God’s blessing.

How does that work? I think it works in various ways. Firstly, when we give our time, our talents and our treasure we feel that we’ve done something good and worthy and that makes us feel better and be more cheerful. Secondly, when we give our money, we are released from the bondage of worry and greed, and that freedom also makes us feel more cheerful. Thirdly, when we see what good our donation has done, we feel good about it and so more cheerful. Finally, we experience God’s favor and blessing spiritually and materially in our lives and that makes us cheerful too.

All of this works to make us happy, healthy and whole. It does so because when we give, we are doing what we were created to do. We were created in God’s image and God is the great self giver. His divine nature is outgoing and out-giving. He is constantly at work pouring his grace and favor into the world—constantly creating, forgiving and overflowing in bounty. When we give generously, we share in that divine nature, and since we were created in his image, we are becoming what we were created to be

So, this week, as we conclude our stewardship campaign, I trust that you will join with me in giving generously to the Lord’s work in this place. I would like to remind you that 10% of your gift automatically goes to the larger work of the Diocese of Charleston. Gifts to the St. Vincent de Paul Society, the School and Mercy Works Charity are exempt from the 10% levy. If you can, please use online giving. This saves time and money for the parish and is therefore part of being a good steward.

Thank you for participating generously and helping us spread and build up the Catholic faith in this section of Greenville!

Your Pastor,
Fr. Longenecker