

Sunday Homilies by **FR. TONY**

Sunday Homily 07-19-2026

Often attributed to St. Ignatius of Loyola, but like many things attributed to famous people, no record exists of him writing it. The Prayer for Generosity was first published in 1910 in a prayer book for French scouts, “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 labor and not to ask for reward, save that of knowing that I do your will. Amen.” The writer of the Book of Wisdom offers us a reflection on God’s great generosity. The gracious generosity that, cares for all that is made, that seeks and offers justice, strengthens the frightened, desires clemency, and gives the hope for forgiveness of sins. We would label a human being who cares for the stranger, and works for justice, and gives courage to the weary and afraid, and is quick to forgive wrongs, generous.

Our little prayer offers six movements of generosity for those of us on this side of the heavenly veil. The generous person serves, gives, fights, toils, labors, and knows. Today let us reflect on each in turn.

The generous person serves and the other deserves. A plea to God to be taught to be generous is an invitation to serve the other with all the care and dignity that they are owed. We are each and all made in the image and likeness of God,

Sunday Families by **FR. TONY**

Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. The lowest and meanest among us share in this created likeness. Every person we meet is due this humble service. This is why hunger and poor water, injustice and discrimination are not just sins against the dignity of the human person, but also against the divine dignity of God Himself.

The generous person fights all injustice regardless the cost. Our desire to be generous of heart is a promise to serve the least among us. A call to lift up the downtrodden, to comfort the lonely and afraid, to protect the weak, and to call the strong to task. It necessarily means that we seek out and eliminate injustice. We fight those who do not value the human dignity of others, by standing it its way regardless the cost.

The generous person gives from their own need in order to satisfy the needs of the other. The generous person does not give only from their surplus, but also from their need. In big ways and small, they seek to alleviate suffering and discomfort. Sometimes through acts of hospitality and charity, other times through heroic acts of self-sacrifice.

The generous person toils. Toil is different from work. Toil is usually exceptionally difficult back breaking work. It is the work that doesn't normally receive reward. It is the work of raising families and study. To toil is to do the

Sunday Families by **FR. TONY**

work that needs to be done that doesn't normally receive a paycheck. It is doing laundry, and washing dishes, and pulling weeds in the garden. It is the work that must be done for other rewarding work can be accomplished. The toil of the generous person prepares the way for others. Toil is the unglamorous sweat of the brow that is necessary for the labor to begin.

The generous person embraces labor not just for the paycheck that is the result but also for the dignity they give to work, and in return the dignity they receive. The generous person labors not just for their daily bread, but for the good of society. They have no need to ask the reward because they know that everyone benefits from their work. The generous person sees themselves as part of the whole, an integral part of the whole, their labor no matter how small is essential to the entire human race.

The generous person does all these things because they know who and what they have received. The generous person serves, and gives, and toils, and labors, because they know the gift of salvation. They do this small and large acts of generosity, because of the gratuitous generosity of God. The Father who gives His Son, the Son who gives His life, and the Spirit who gives his Love. The holy

Sunday Homilies by **FR. TONY**

Trinity is a communion of Generosity, consistently and constantly pouring their life into and receiving life from the other persons of the Trinity.

“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 labor and not to ask for reward, save that of knowing that I do your will. Amen.”