



# Cabrini Notes

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## In Giving, We Receive

The Prayer of St. Francis concisely distills many teachings about the Christian life. In essence, it says that if we want peace, pardon, hope and light in a world of war, hatred, vengeance and darkness then it is up to us. We must bring virtue to the world of vice, but it is clear that *we are not the source*, but merely *instruments*. God is the source of all that is good, and it is the goodness of God that we share. The prayer speaks of the fact that when we give, it is then that we receive. This is the theme we have chosen for our increased giving campaign: ***In Giving, We Receive***.

In order to give something, we must first receive it, and all that we have received is that which has come to us from God. Indeed, some have more than others; but it is also true that all that we have is first a gift. There is another adage that says, *Our life is God's gift to us; what we do with it is our gift to God*. This is at the heart of biblical teaching on stewardship. God has called us into being and given us life and love, so in gratitude we return that love by a gift as well. Part of this teaching mirrors what we know from marriage vows—that we are to give in good times and in bad, in sickness and in health.

If you have been in church in the last few months, we have shared with you in a most clear way the difficulties we face as a parish. For the last eight years your faith has been exemplary, despite the ups and downs of these times. We have had our share of challenges over these years, but none more serious than what confronts us now. We are looking for various ways to improve our situation, but this sacrificial giving campaign is an important and decisive step.

Please pray for its success; dedicating ourselves to God in prayer is our first step. We are asking that everyone give *at the very least* the “first fruits” of their earnings (for a 40-hour workweek, this is the first hour). If you are on a fixed income, please consider 1/40<sup>th</sup> (2.5%) of your total income as a minimum. In concrete terms, if you make \$12/hour, we ask that you commit to \$12.00 as your offering. If you receive \$800/month, that translates to \$20/month or \$5/week). We ask that this commitment be **every week** of the year, not just the occasional times when one might come to Mass. For your convenience we are setting up electronic giving so that you may keep your commitment to God with ease. Of course, you could also set up for a check to be automatically sent to us; this saves us a little money. For those who have been giving at these levels or above, we remind people of the true **biblical tithe** which is 10%. For those who can approach this figure, we ask you to consider moving in that direction.

***In Giving, We Receive*** will take place in September. You will receive packets in the mail explaining the process. Meanwhile, at Mass, you will be hearing from some parishioners and from Fr. Bob and me.

The parishes of the past represented by us were built and sustained by love of God and neighbor in their own day. Now it is time for us to shine in a new way, for a new day. We have received much from those who have gone before us. After having received so much from them and from God, may we give, knowing that we will receive even more.

Peace in Christ,  
Fr. Mickey McGrath