

Dear Friends,

**Why should our parish be giving money away to help other people who are poor when we are poor?**

First of all, let me quote the Vatican II document entitled DOGMATIC CONSTITUTION ON THE CHURCH (*Lumen Gentium*):

“Just as Christ carried out the work of redemption in poverty and oppression, so the Church is called to follow the same path if she is to communicate the fruits of salvation to [people]. Christ Jesus, ‘though he was by nature God... emptied himself, taking the nature of a slave’ (Phil. 2:6, 7), and ‘being rich, became poor’ (2 Cor. 8:9) for our sake. Likewise, the Church, although she needs human resources to carry out her mission, is not set up to seek earthly glory, but to proclaim, and this by her own example, humility and self-denial. Christ was sent by the Father ‘to bring good news to the poor... to heal the contrite of heart’ (Lk. 4:18), to ‘seek and to save what was lost’ (Lk. 19:10). Similarly, the Church encompasses with her love all those who are afflicted by human misery and she recognizes in those who are poor and who suffer, the image of her poor and suffering founder. She does all in her power to relieve their need and in them she strives to serve Christ.”<sup>[1]</sup>

The Church serves the needs of the poor because in doing so WE SERVE JESUS CHRIST. This is our mission. This has been our mission from the very beginning. Today, to my knowledge, most parishes offer a certain percentage of their weekly offertory income to help serve the needs of the poor in their areas and in the world.

We are not a poor parish. We have the resources to help meet the needs of people who suffer from poverty, sickness and grief. Thanks to your generosity we now have \$1,830 in our Direct Assistance Fund which helps serve those who call looking for financial assistance. This money will be disbursed with prudence and great care.

Starting with the new liturgical year, which begins on November 30, we will also begin sharing a portion of our weekly offertory with different organizations throughout the surrounding area. This portion will be one half of one percent

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<sup>[1]</sup> Lumen Gentium, #8, pages 357-358

(.5%) for the remainder of this fiscal year. We will, however, slowly begin to increase that amount of giving each year.

I am always in awe of the goodness I see in the parish. You have shown tremendous generosity, and for that I am so grateful. These *are* challenging times. We are in an economic crisis right now and there will be more people asking for our help. Our challenge will be to help them, to serve them and to love them because in doing so we help, serve and love Christ. That is our mission.

In joyful hope,  
Fr. Tim Seigel