

Virtues: Faith and Character Development

CHARITY

Scripture Quotes:

The measure you give will be the measure you get *Matthew 7:2*

"It is more blessed to give than to receive." *Acts 20:35*

Peace is the work of justice indirectly, in so far as justice removes the obstacles to peace; but it is the work of charity (love) directly, since charity, according to its very notion, causes peace." *St. Thomas Aquinas*

"To love our neighbour in charity is to love God in the human person."
St. Francis de Sales

The bread in your cupboard belongs to the hungry person; the coat hanging unused in your closet belongs to the one who needs it; the shoes in your closet belong to the one who has none; the money which you save in the bank belongs to the poor. You do wrong *to everyone you could help, but fail to help.*" *St. Basil the Great*

Charity, to be fruitful, must cost us." *Blessed Mother Teresa*

Scripture:

Isaiah 58: 6-10

Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house; Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly; your vindicator shall go before you, the glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard. **9** Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer; you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am. if you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your light shall rise in the darkness.

Acts of the Apostles 4:32-37

Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one

claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common... There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need. There was a Levite, a native of Cyprus, Joseph, to whom the apostles gave the name Barnabas (which means "son of encouragement"). He sold a field that belonged to him, then brought the money, and laid it at the apostles' feet.

Mark 12: 41-44

He sat down opposite the treasury, and watched the crowd putting money into the treasury. Many rich people put in large sums. A poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which are worth a penny. Then he called his disciples and said to them, "Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the treasury. For all of them have contributed out of their abundance; but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, all she had to live on."

Prayer – St Ignatius of Loyola

Lord, teach me to be generous.

Teach me to serve you as you deserve;

to give and not count the cost; to work and not ask for reward, except to know that I am doing your will.

Amen.

