

Giving is Incredibly Important

Giving is incredibly important when it comes to growing a healthy parish. An obvious reason: it takes money to run a parish. You can't turn on the lights, heat the building, or provide programs without it. All ministry costs something, and lack of giving will cripple or even kill our efforts. Catholics are accustomed to getting church for next to nothing because parishes and schools used to be staffed with people who basically worked for free.

As we move forward, parishes will be primarily staffed by lay people, the majority of whom will have to be paid. Giving is even more important when it comes to discipleship.

One time, a young man approached Jesus about becoming a disciple. He seems to have the right stuff. It looks like he's got it all together – except for one thing. When Jesus says to him, “go, sell what you have and give it to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me” [Matt 19:21], the man walks away from that advice. Matthew tells us he leaves with sadness, because he had great wealth. And, as far as we know, he never becomes a disciple. Our money and our discipleship go hand in hand.

Taken from, *Rebuilt*, by Fr. Michael White and Tom Corcoran