

The Gift of Your Time: Sharing Your Talents with the Church and Those in Need

Headline: God has given every one of us gifts, talents, skills, time, and experiences that are meant to be shared—not simply stored. The Church does not need spectators; she needs men who are willing to step forward and serve. Where is God calling you to use what you have been given to help His Church and the people around you?

Objective: Each of us has been given unique talents, skills, and experiences by God that are meant to be shared, not kept for ourselves. Our time is also a gift, and choosing to give it to others is one of the clearest expressions of love. As Catholic men, we are called to use what we have received to build up the Church, strengthen our families, and serve those in need. The question is not only what we are good at, but how God is asking us to use those gifts for the good of others. When we serve, we participate in God's work of love in the world. St Gregory the Great has a great number of ministries that serve others, how can you find the one that is right for you

Song Suggestion: The Servant Song.

Bible and Catechism Readings:

Matthew 25: 34-36

"Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.'

Hebrews 13:16

"And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased."

Catechism 2208

"The family should live in such a way that its members learn to care and take responsibility for the young, the old, the sick, the handicapped, and the poor. There are many families who are at times unable to provide this help. It devolves on other persons, other families, and, in a subsidiary way, society to provide for their needs."

Saint: St. Mother Teresa cared for others by dedicating her life to serving the poor, sick, and forgotten. She founded the Missionaries of Charity to provide food, shelter, medical care, and love to people in need. She treated every person with dignity and believed that serving the poor was a way of serving God. She encouraged others to show kindness through small acts of love and compassion. Her life is an example of how we can care for others by giving our time, talents, and hearts to those who need help.

Vignette: Mike was a devoted husband and father who worked hard and cared deeply for his family. One day, he began asking himself whether God might be calling him to use his time and talents for people beyond his own home. He thought about an elderly neighbor who lived alone and a parishioner who had recently lost his wife. Mike realized that he often saw people who needed help but assumed someone else would step in. He decided to start paying closer attention and looking for simple ways to serve.

He began by helping his elderly neighbor with yard work and checking in on the grieving parishioner over coffee. Soon, he discovered other opportunities through his parish to mentor a young man, help with a food drive, and assist families facing difficult circumstances. Mike realized that serving others did not require him to have unlimited time—it required him to be willing to give what he had. He also began bringing his children along when appropriate, teaching them that their family's blessings are meant to be shared. Mike came to see that being a faithful Catholic man meant not only caring for his own family but also looking beyond his front door to see where God was inviting him to help others.

Questions for Large and Small Group Discussion:

1. **Who are the people God has placed in your life who may need you to "stand with" them right now?**
Are there people you have overlooked because their struggles are inconvenient, uncomfortable, or outside your immediate circle?
2. **Are there projects, special events, or opportunities that you and your small team could team up to help others?**
Are there opportunities that your small team could team up to help others? Maybe a food drive, fixing things for less fortunate neighbors, or visiting lonely parishioners?
3. **How can you involve other family members to love God through serving others?**
We learn by doing, and our children can learn by experiencing things with us. How can you involve your children, or siblings in volunteer services so they too can learn to serve others?

Resources:

St Gregory the Great has many opportunities to share your time and talents.

1. St Gregory the Great Social Action committee works to involve our parishioners in service other through mission work, twinning communities, and other stewardship opportunities. Their website can be found at <https://sggparish.org/socialaction/>
2. Companions in Christ – Do you have a friend or loved one that is home bound or in long term care facility that is longing for Catholic Fellowship? Do you know someone that could benefit from a call or visit from one of our Companions in Christ volunteers? This St Gregory the Great ministry offers companionship, support, and connection—a friendly ministry, grounded in faith, that reminds people that they are cared for and not alone.
Call or email Kendall Keiser, Director of Health Ministries, 513-388-4184, kendallk@sggparish.org to get help or get involved.
3. The Society of St Vincent de Paul – Although the Society of St. Vincent de Paul is not a member of the St. Gregory the Great Social Action Council, it is a vital organization serving the needy and feeding the hungry in our area. Many parish members belong to and contribute to this important group.
4. The St Gregory the Great Mental Wellness Ministry works to bring awareness of mental wellness issues like anxiety, depression, and grief; and works to reduce the stigma of these mental wellness issues in our friends and neighbors. SGG Mental Wellness also provides education, wellness support groups, and wellness events for members of our SGG parish and the surrounding community. Want to get involved? Contact Dan Lape or Bob Considine of Fathers Team, or Kendall Keiser at 513-388-4184 or kendallk@sggparish.org.

Other local opportunities for getting involved include:

5. SEM Food Pantry is a client-choice food pantry which enables members to choose their own food like they would at a grocery store. SEM Food Pantry those people and families who can't make ends meet for a variety of reasons, and makes sure they have access to food. The pantry is located on Beechmont Avenue in Mt Washington and has a variety of volunteer opportunities. You can ask Bob Bove, Mike Suter, Jim Cary, and many others on Fathers Team about opportunities, or go to <https://www.semfoodpantry.org/>

6. Inter Parish Food Ministries(IPM) IPM was founded over 60 years ago by four local churches who believed they could make a greater impact by working together. IPM is a dynamic nonprofit focused on fighting food insecurity and delivers many services to the surrounding community. You can find more at <https://www.ipmfoodpantry.org/>

Action Plan:

1. **Look for the need.**
Read the bulletin or contact the parish office, and ask where people in the parish or nearby communities are currently struggling and could use practical help.
2. **Find one person or family to serve.**
Choose one concrete need—such as helping an elderly neighbor, supporting a family in crisis, visiting someone who is lonely, or assisting a local charitable organization—and commit to taking action.
3. **Invite others to join you.**
Bring your spouse, children, friends, or fellow Father's Team members into the effort. Look for opportunities to serve together so that generosity and service become part of your family's and friendships' culture.
4. **Expand your circle.**
Look beyond your own parish for opportunities to serve in nearby towns and communities. Consider food pantries, shelters, Catholic charities, nursing homes, or other organizations serving people in need.
5. **Make service a habit.**
Set a goal to serve regularly—not just when a need is announced. At your next Father's Team gathering, share what you did, who you served, and how you can continue involving your family and friends in serving others.

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