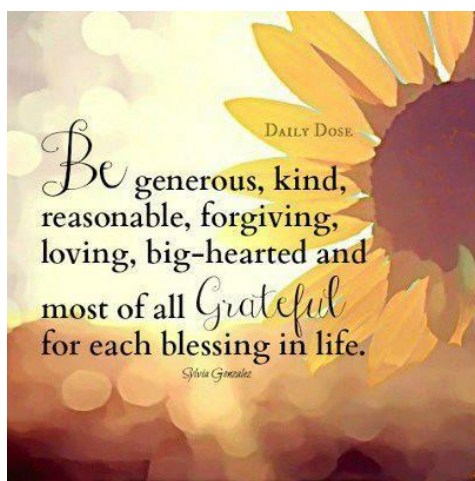


## Generous and Grateful

In gratitude we are human; in generosity we are divine  
"You received without pay, give without pay." (Mt 10:8)

Grateful for their own gifts, for the gift of other people, and for the blessings of each day; and generous with their gifts, now and in the future.

By encouraging them to know and be grateful for all their gifts, developing them to the full so that they can be generous in the service of others.



The highest gift we can give to another is the gift of ourselves. Giving ourselves in this way epitomizes the virtue of generosity. The perfect example of generosity is God the Creator. By means of His generosity, He generated man in His image. For Christians, God's gift of Himself through Christ represents the ultimate form of generosity, and serves as a model for all human generosity. To live authentically is to give generously of oneself. What are the limits of generosity? Since virtue is rooted in love, this question is tantamount to asking, "What are the limits of love?"

To the calculating mind, being generous seems to be costly. To the generous heart, being greedy seems incomprehensible. It is greed that impoverishes us, not generosity. True generosity, indeed, enriches us a hundredfold. There is a superabundance within each of us.

Not to release generosity is to cost us who we are:

24 Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. 25 He who loves his life loses it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it to life eternal. (Jn. 12:24-25.)

Nothing, therefore, is more costly than greed; nothing is more rewarding than generosity. The fact that greed is as common as it is indicates that human beings can be estranged from themselves while trying to live a life that is alien to them.

Literary characters such as King Midas, Silas Marner, Ebenezer Scrooge, and The Grinch Who Almost Stole Christmas, are driven by greed in such a way that the more greedy they become, the less human they appear. The conversions of Midas, Scrooge, and the Grinch are, in effect, returns to humanity, and are met by readers with great jubilation. Generous people are not only more likable than their greedy counterparts, but they appear to be more human, more real.

A poor man who is in touch with the fundamental generosity of his existence can be productive, happy, and at peace with himself.

It is more blessed to give than to receive; but it is far more blessed to give than to take. In the final analysis, we cannot take with us what we have, though many people seem to live as though they could. But we can leave behind what we have given.

*Creed is an affliction of the dispossessed. Generosity is the plenitude of the self-possessed.*



Solidarity is about valuing our fellow human beings and respecting who they are as individuals.

"We are all one family in the world. Building a community that empowers everyone to attain their full potential through each of us respecting each other's dignity, rights and responsibilities makes the world a better place to live"

Sollicitudo rei socialis – 'On Social Concern' (1987)

"The many situations of inequality, poverty and injustice, are signs not only of a profound lack of fraternity, but also of the absence of a culture of solidarity. New ideologies, characterized by rampant individualism, egocentrism and materialistic consumerism, weaken social bonds, fuelling that "throw away" mentality which leads to contempt for, and the abandonment of, the weakest and those considered "useless". In this way human coexistence increasingly tends to resemble a mere 'do ut des' which is both pragmatic and selfish"

Pope Francis



### The Grail Prayer

Lord Jesus,

I give You my hands to do Your work.

I give You my feet to go Your way.

I give You my eyes to see as You do.

I give You my tongue to speak Your words.

I give You my mind that You may think in me.

I give You my spirit that You may pray in me.

Above all, I give You my heart

that You may love in me,

Your Father and all mankind.

I give you my whole self that You may grow in me,

so that it is You Lord Jesus,

who live and work and pray in me.

Amen

### Prayer of St. Ignatius of Loyola

#### St Ignatius of Loyola - Prayer for Generosity

Lord, teach me to be **generous**.  
Teach me to **serve** you as you deserve;  
to **give** and not to count the cost,  
to **fight** and not to heed the wounds,  
to **toil** and not to seek for rest,  
to **labour** and not to seek for reward,  
save that of knowing I do your most **Holy Will**.



### Psalm 23: The Lord is my Shepherd



## Psalm 23

The Lord is my Shepherd - **That's Relationship!**  
I shall not want - **That's Supply!**  
He maketh me to lie down in green pastures - **That's Rest!**  
He leadeth me beside the still waters - **That's Refreshment!**  
He restoreth my soul - **That's Healing!**  
He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness - **That's Guidance!**  
For His name sake - **That's Purpose!**  
Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death - **That's Testing!**  
I will fear no evil - **That's Protection!**  
For Thou art with me - **That's Faithfulness!**  
Thy rod and Thy staff they comfort me - **That's Discipline!**  
Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies - **That's Hope!**  
Thou annointest my head with oil - **That's Consecration!**  
My cup runneth over - **That's Abundance!**  
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life - **That's Blessing!**  
And I will dwell in the house of the Lord - **That's Security!**  
Forever - **That's Eternity!**

To God be the Glory...