



June 8, 2025  
Bulletin #23

## *Our Lady of Lebanon Maronite Catholic Church*

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Monsignor Bakhos Chidiac, Pastor

Mary Lee Porter, Ed.D. Organist



### *Pentecost Sunday*

- \***Weekend Masses:** Saturdays: Mass at 4:00 p.m. and Sundays: Mass at 10:30 a.m.
- \***Weekday Masses:** Mondays and Wednesdays and Fridays: No Mass. Pastor's office work.  
Tuesdays and Thursdays Mass at 12:00 Noon
- \***Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament:** Every 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday and Sunday of the month after Mass.
- \***Confession:** Saturday: 3:00 p.m. to 3:45 p.m. or any other time by appointment.
- \***Baptism:** Please call the Pastor as soon as baby is born; at least one Godparent must be Catholic.
- \***Weddings:** Please make arrangements at least six months in advance before any other plans are made.
- \***Sick Calls & Anointing of the Sick:** Please notify the Pastor at 304-233-1688
- \***Parish Council:** Lou Khourey, Susan (John) Burns, Mark McLaughlin, Liz Murad, Gary Weisner.
- \***Choir Members:** Lou Khourey, Robert Harris, Joe Simon, Shelly Hancher, Holly Stahl.
- \***Bulletin Coordinator:** Thomasina Geimer
- \***Altar Server:** Joe Roxby
- \***Altar Boy:** Christopher AlKhoury
- \***Cedar Club:** Linda Duffy, President
- \***Women's Society:** Jeannette Wakim, President



#### \***Bulletin Announcements:**

Submit all Bulletin Information to Msgr. Bakhos by Noon on Tuesday every week.

#### \***New Parishioners:**

We welcome you with great joy & invite you to officially register as one of our parishioners.

\***Remember the Church in your Last Will & Testament:** Her prayers will accompany you to heaven.

## ***Pentecost Sunday***

Readings: Gen 11:1-9; Acts 2:1-21 and Jn 14:15-20

On the fiftieth day after Passover -in Greek, "Pentecost"- there was celebrated in Jerusalem the feast of the Gathering, and from all the corners of the globe Jews assembled in Pilgrimage, in memory of God's gift of the Law to Moses on Mount Sinai.

The Apostles, the Blessed Virgin Mary, a few relatives of the Lord, and a few women disciples were assembled in the upper room. Around nine o'clock in the morning, God appeared to them as He had appeared to Moses on Sinai, in the midst of a storm and with violent wind; His Holy Spirit settled upon them in the form of tongues of fire which rested on their heads. The Holy Spirit gave them the power to evangelize the world by means of the new Assembly of God's people, the Church. As a sign that God had now firmly established His Church, the gospel was understood by all who were present though they spoke different languages and came from different races and nations. This work of God's grace may be compared opposite to what happened to people of Babel, who spoke one common language and yet, because of their sin, were no longer able to understand each other.

At Pentecost, although the people spoke diverse languages, they each understood the single language of the apostles. This is clearly a symbol of God's call to all people to UNITY and MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING. That is why the feast of Pentecost and the season which follows it invites us to meditate on the "One Holy, Catholic and apostolic Church" which the Holy Spirit has sanctified and which Christ founded on the Apostles.

Let us ask the Lord to grant us the Holy Spirit and the gifts that come from Him, so that we may be true children of God and His Church, and zealous apostles willing to spread the Holy Gospel of Christ.

### ***This Weekend, Sat-Sun. June 7-8: Pentecost Sunday***

#### **Saturday, June 7 Mass at 4:00 p.m.: (Pentecost Mass followed by Benediction)**

- ✠ Tom & Mary K. Ferris by their daughter Denise Ferris
- ✠ Deceased Family members of the Roxby Family by Joe Roxby
- ✠ Bob Sengewalt by his grandchildren: Jeff, Courtney & Patrick Sengewalt
- ✠ Special prayer for Good health of Rosalie Galloway

#### **Sunday, June 8 Mass at 10:30 a.m.: (Pentecost Mass followed by Benediction)**

- ✠ Alma Erbacher (Birthday) by Patrick & Laurie Henry
- ✠ Mary Zaid Stees, Elizabeth A. Magnone, Tom Ferris by Libby G. Magnone
- ✠ John Shiben by his wife Dee Shiben

### ***Weekdays Mass Schedule***

**Monday, June 9:** No Mass. Pastors' day off.

#### **Tuesday, June 10 Mass at 12:00 Noon:**

- ✠ Rosella Saseen, parents Nancepe & Helen, grandparents Shikrey & Helen Saseen by her last Will
- ✠ Janis & George Thomas (Ohio) by their last will
- ✠ Sylvia Long, her husband Arthur, & her son Mark by her last will

**Wednesday, June 11:** No Mass. Pastors' office work.

#### **Thursday, June 12 Mass at 12:00 Noon:**

- ✠ Robert & Laurel Kate Matiasek by their Last Will
- ✠ Noel Foreman by his wife Anne and Family
- ✠ John Shiben by his wife Dee Shiben

**Friday, June 13:** No Mass. Visitation of the sick.

### ***Next Two Weekends, Saturday June 14 – Sunday, June 22***

*Masses for the Deceased Fathers and Grandfathers*

## Special Remembrance on special days:

On June 14: † Earl & Helen Ragase by Mary Ragase

† Pearl (Nolte) Shutler (Anniversary) by her daughter Janet Shutler

† Rosemarie Henry (Birthday) by Patrick and Laurie Henry

† Robert “Henk” Henry (Birthday) by Patrick and Laurie Henry

On June 15: † Mary Miller (Birthday) by Mark & Barb McLaughlin

† Mary Stees (Birthday) by Denise Ferris

On June 19: † Alois Marchy (Anniversary) by Mary Ragase

† Denise Ferris (Birthday) by Libby G. Magnone

On June 21: † Cathy (Sharp) Howard (Anniversary) by Dave & Debbie Sengewalt

† Mariam Joseph (Anniversary) by the Weisner and Joseph Families

On June 22: † Sara (Joseph) McLaughlin (Birthday) by Mark & Barb McLaughlin

† Mary Zaid Stees, Elizabeth A. Magnone, Tom Ferris by Libby G. Magnone

† Habib Khourey, Louis Khourey Sr., & Nassif Nader by Lou, Charlotte, Emmalena & Louie Khourey

† Charles “Pud” Howard, Bruce Cody Riggs and Franklin C. Howard by Lou & Charlotte & Family

† Adib Chidiac (father) & Nadim Chidiac (brother) and my grandfathers by Msgr. Bakhos

† Aziz Kazour and Youssef Chahine by Jocelyne Chahine and Family (Pittsburgh)

† Sylvia Long, her husband Arthur, & her son Mark by her last will

† Janis & George Thomas (Ohio) by their last will

† Noel Foreman by his wife Anne and Family

† Ray McLaughlin, Sr. and Elias Joseph by Mark & Barb McLaughlin

† John Miller by Mark & Barb McLaughlin

† Dana Burkhart by his wife Carol Burkhart

† Sylvia Long, her husband Arthur, & her son Mark by her last will

† Janis & George Thomas (Ohio) by their last will

† Rosella Saseen, parents Nancepe & Helen, grandparents Shikrey & Helen Saseen by her last Will

† Robert J. Shutler, Sr. and Harry J. Nolte and Fred Shutler by Janet Shutler

† Harry F. Nolte by Janet Shutler

† Alfred Felici by Francie Felicie and children Stephanie Richards and Brian Felici

† Donald A. Nickerson Sr. and Albert Nickerson by their Loving Family

† Nimon Joseph and Maroon Habeb by Jean Weisner and Family

† William Schweiger by Mary Lee & Dennis Porter

† Hurry Porter by Mary Lee & Dennis Porter

† George Saseen by his son George Saseen

† Steve Harasuik by his daughter Susan Saseen

† Thomas Ferris by Denise Ferris

† Mike Joseph and Alphonse Joseph by Vickie Joseph

† Albert Valles and Clay Allen by Vickie Joseph

† Joseph Bott and John Henning by Don & Roberta Henning

† George A. Fahey by Jackie & Pat Petros

† Philip G. Petros by Jackie & Pat Petros

† Thomas Jochum Jr. and Sr. by Sue, children and grandchildren

† Tim and Gus Shia by their children and grandchildren

† Robert Armstrong by Bob & Paula Gibbons

† Abdo Ferris, Nicholai Magnone, Tom Ferris, Ted Ferris, Wm. Magnone, John Ferris, Greg Ferris, Ray Young, Sr. by Libby G. Magnone

† Tony George and Sam George by Margaret George (MN)

† Albert Stiles by Margaret George (MN)

† Elias Frenn and Jim Thomas by Dr. Adel, Diane and Justin Frenn

† Robert and Charles by Carol Dougherty (OK)

† William Dougherty by Lisa Kennedy

- † George Alan Weisner by Mary Beth Weisner
- † Al Schroeder by his son Mark Schroeder and his daughter Jane Wine
- † Ray Palotay by the Palotay and Jarrett Families
- † Fred Oser by Debbie & Mark Huffman
- † Allen Huffman by Debbie & Mark Huffman
- † Barkett Coury and Al Otterbeck and Sadie Coury by Ron & Kim Gibbons
- † Joseph Duffy and George Fadoul by Earl & Linda Duffy
- † Angelo Palsinelli by Rosalie Conti
- † Michael T. Hatty, Louis M. Hatty and Joseph P. Hatty by Judge Michael P. Hatty & Family
- † Richard Frazier by his wife Luane and sons Rick and John
- † Vincent Jacovetty by Patricia & George Fahey
- † Dennis Fahey by George & Patricia Fahey
- † Albert Togliatti by GiGi Rice
- † Khalil Harb by GiGi Rice
- † Robert Glaser by his Family
- † Albert Boehm by his Family
- † Melo Wakim and John G. Wakim by Chris & Jeannette Wakim and Family
- † William M. Yeater Jr and William M. Yeater Sr. by Chris & Jeannette Wakim and Family
- † Lawrence J. Belt by Chris & Jeannette Wakim and Family
- † George Popovich, Mike Popovich by Joe & Nikki Popovich
- † Augie Montalbano, Don Fielding, Stan Fielding, Nick Stan, Joe Montalbano by Joe & Nikki Popovich
- † Donald Vince and Constantine (Gus) Shia by their Children and grandchildren
- † Samuel John Hebdo by Rose (Hebdo) Oberst
- † John T. John and D. William Burns by their loving children Susan and Ron Burns
- † Thomas John, David Joseph and Donald Burns by their loving grandchildren Susan and Ron Burns
- † Danny Manners by NiNi Miller
- † Abdoo Saseen and Bernard Connell by Jim & Pat Saseen Connell
- † Robert “Herk” Henry and James Henry by Patrick Henry
- † Tim Stanton and William Sayre by Mr. & Mrs. Mike Sofka
- † Steve Sofka by Mr. & Mrs. Mike Sofka
- † Samuel Elias by Mike & Terri Golebiewski
- † Alphonse Golebiewski by Mike & Terri Golebiewski
- † Rudy Porchiran and Joe Ragus by Kathleen George and Family
- † Paul Hankish by Rose Hankish
- † George Lenz by Nicky Lenz and Family
- † George Popovich and Augie Montalbano by his granddaughter Nicky and Family
- † Walter Elwartoski by his son Richard Elwartoski
- † Constantino Cetorelli by Larry & Lillian Siebieda
- † Friend Blake by Larry & Lillian Siebieda
- † Josef Siembieda by Larry & Lillian Siebieda
- † Nicola Caputi by Larry & Lillian Siebieda
- † Orval A. Blake Sr. by Larry & Lillian Siebieda
- † Matthew Siebieda by Larry & Lillian Siebieda
- † Russell Wetzal by Rusty Wetzal
- † Bob Sengewalt by Dave & Debbie Sengewalt

### *Masses for the Living Fathers and Grandfathers*

- † Louis H. Khourey by his children Emmalena and Louie
- † George Saseen by his granddaughter Ginny Naswadi
- † Louis Valles by Vickie Joseph
- † Trent Jochum by Alec, Sarah and Katie
- † Nick Magnone, Bill Stees, Josh McDowell, John Ferris, Nicky Magnone, Chuck Rayl, Travis Wayt by Libby

G. Magnone

† Dr. Adel Frenn by Diane and Justin Frenn and Andreah, Zack & Christian Riedel

† Chris Wakim by Laura Chapman and Jackson and Eloise and Chris (Nathan) Wakim

† Joe Popovich by Nikki Popovich, PJ, Nikki J, Lindsay and Luke Lenz

† PJ Lenz by Joe & Nikki Popovich

† PJ Lenz by his wife Nicky and children Lindsay and Luke

† Joe Popovich by his daughter Nicky and Family

† Larry Siebieda by Jeremy Siebieda and Kathy Logan

† Butch Dennis by Annette Wetzel

† Mark McLaughlin by his children Brad and Kristen and grandchildren Nathan and Shane

## ***Kibbee & Meat Pies for Sale***

Delicious Kibbee and Meat Pies, made by the ladies & gentleman of our church, are ON SALE now!

We have a limited quantity of Kibbee and Meat Pies leftover from our May Bake Sale.

Kibbee: Vacuum sealed, frozen, and packaged in a pack of 12 = \$48.

Meat Pies: Individually wrapped and frozen = \$6 each.

Quantities are selling fast. Call or text Susan 304-218-3028 or Liz 304-281-7948 to purchase.

THANK YOU!

## ***Rummage Sale (Sat. June 21 and Sat. June 28)***

Our parish rummage sale is set for Saturday, June 21 st and again on Saturday, June 28<sup>th</sup>, from 8:00 am until 2:00 pm. Please no more drop off's at this time. Thank you.

## ***Coming Parish Events***

Sunday, June 15	
Sat. June 21 and Sat. June 28	Our Parish Rummage sale from 8:00 am until 2:00 pm in the old basement of the church.
Thanksgiving Bake Sale	???????

## ***Fathers' Day brunch (Sunday, June 15 after Mass)***

On the occasion of the Fathers' day, The ladies of the church will serve a complimentary brunch to repay the gentlemen who served a brunch on Mothers' Day.

## ***Festival (Mahrajan) News (Sunday, August 10 from 11 to 6pm)***

--**Outdoor Mass** at Oglebay at 10:00 a.m. Booths open after Mass. No Mass at the church on August 10th.

--**Table Reservations** (ready to be reserved):

1-Under the Tent = \$130. One (1) table and eight (8) chairs under the tent.

2-Open-air = \$65. One (1) wooden picnic table in open-air (under the trees).

Reservation due date: May 15, 2025. Please call Msgr. Bakhos at 304-233-1688 to reserve a table.

--**50/50 RAFFLE Tickets \$10,000 Prize** (Ready for sale):

...The festival 50/50 Raffle tickets are now ready for sale for \$20 per ticket! We have only printed 1,000 tickets. If all tickets are sold, there is an opportunity to win \$10,000 Cash! Tickets can be purchased from Monsignor Bakhos at 304-233-1688. Once received, Monsignor will fill-out the raffle ticket and mail the stub to the buyer. THANK YOU for helping us defraying the expenses of the Festival.

--**Youth Dance Troupe:** We are calling all parish youth interested in the OLOL Dance Troup practices for the Festival will begin on Sunday, June 1, immediately following 10:30 a,m, Mass. Please contact Mariana Alkhouri at 304-231-6234. If you are interested. Yalla!

## ***Birthdays Wishes in the Coming Month***

June 9: Ava DeMuth

June 14: P.J. Lenz, Kathy Boehm

June 15: Becky Joseph Ferrera, Grace Ferrera  
 June 20: Nick Ghaphery, Jr., Michelle Shia  
 June 23: Mary Beth Weisner  
 June 27: Lindsay Lenz  
 July 3: Larry Ferrera  
 July 5: Bill Committee

### ***Your Church Support Last Week***

\$927.00	Sunday Collection
177.00	2 <sup>nd</sup> collection
95.00	Candles
16.00	Coffee hour
150.00	Donation to the church
460.00	Mahrajan
252.00	Bake sale
\$2077.00	Total Deposits: May God reward you abundantly for supporting your spiritual home! Finance Committee: Lou Khourey, Susan Burns, Liz Murad, Mark McLaughlin

### ***Please Pray for Those on Our Prayer List***

(Note: Please call Msgr. Bakhos if you need your name added to our Prayer List. HIPPA regulations), Earl & Linda Duffy, Julia Schiess (daughter of Leo Bleifus), Mary Ragase, Becky Ferrera, Gavin Hancher, Monroe DeLuca, Sally Sengewalt, Mary Zigler (sister of Lillian Siebieda), Dolores Oser, Anthony Wakim, Fran Saseen, Sandra DeMuth, Justin Frenn, Elia Frenn, Patty Fahey, Patty Olinsky, Fred Schweizer (brother of our organist Mary Lee Porter), Denny Albaugh, Rita Rae Sage,

### ***From our Diocese***

The Maronite Servants of Christ the Light will host a Discernment Retreat Weekend (June 6-8th) at their Mother of the Light Convent, 856 Tucker Rd Dartmouth, MA. Please share the information with your communities for those who may be interested. Also, if anyone would like to contact the other religious congregations, please give them the following information:

Antonine Sisters: Sister Samia Abou-Shakra at [anto9srs@aol.com](mailto:anto9srs@aol.com)

Maronite Sisters of the Holy Family: Sister Rose Therese Tannous at [rosetheresetannous@gmail.com](mailto:rosetheresetannous@gmail.com)

With sincere best wishes and prayers, I remain

Yours in Christ, Bishop A. Elias Zaidan, Eparchy of Our Lady of Lebanon

### ***Do you want to be a nun? Here is your calling***

-Maronite sisters of the Holy Family-California

-Young women age 18-35

-Spiritual retreat via Zoom on Wednesday, June 4, June 18 or July 2<sup>nd</sup> at 7:30 pm CA time

-To participate and register, call sister Rose Therese Tannous at 657-657-4422 by May 28<sup>th</sup>

### ***Around Us***

Eucharist Adoration:

Where: St. Michael Church will have (Corpus Christi Sunday)

When: Sunday, June 22<sup>nd</sup> 12:30pm–5:00pm. *(after the Eucharistic procession around the neighborhood)*

Please join us for this special prayerful event as we thank God for the gift of His Body and Blood.

*Adoration will be held in the church.*

### ***Question & Answer (#19)***

**Question #19: “Can a Catholic believe in evolution?”**

**Answer #19:** Looking at evolution as the process of how God created the world does not pose a problem for the Catholic. However, because some aspects of “evolution” can impact the faith of the believer, the Church does offer guidelines for what must be believed and what is left up to the individual’s judgment.

Before considering those guidelines, let’s be clear about the difference between “evolution” and “evolutionism.” Evolution is a scientific theory which says that more complex forms of life developed from less complex forms, over extreme periods of time. As a scientific theory, it is to be accepted or rejected based on the evidence. Evolutionism, on the other hand, is the belief that everything that exists can be explained in exclusively materialist terms, apart from a Creator. According to evolutionism, everything that exists developed from “blind chance” with no knowing or planning of its purpose or end.

Evolutionism is not only unscientific, it is unreasonable because it holds that a complex organism like the human brain developed by “blind chance.” Because evolutionism denies the creative action of God, it is dangerous for us to hold to this view. It implies that humans are mere animals.

Here are some guidelines on what the Catholic should believe regarding creation and evolution.

The first three chapters of Genesis contain elements of historical truth, even though the inspired author may have used a poetic literary form to communicate these truths. When I say “historical truth,” I mean something that really happened. The first sin (original sin) really happened at a certain time and place in history. Perhaps it was six thousand years ago; perhaps six hundred thousand years ago. For all we know, the first sin may well have had something to do with eating a certain fruit which God had commanded man not to eat. But it needn’t have. That may simply be a poetic way the Genesis writer chose to communicate the historical truth about man’s fall from paradise. What we must affirm is that there really was a first sin. We must also affirm the following:

- 1- All things were created by a loving God.
- 2- Man is made in the image of God, which means, among other things, that he is a spiritual being, with the powers of knowing and freely choosing.
- 3- Even if man’s body evolved, God still created man because God created the process of evolution and His providence guided it to give rise to the human race.
- 4- Whatever the origin of man’s bodily form, his soul is a special creation of God, not the result of an evolutionary process. This is because spirit, unlike matter, is incapable of evolving, since it has no parts to evolve from one thing to another.
- 5- We all descended from one original set of parents.
- 6- Our original parents were created in a state of happiness.
- 7- Their obedience was tested and they transgressed the divine law at the prompting of the devil.
- 8- They lost the supernatural gifts given to the human race by God.
- 9- They passed on original sin to all mankind.
- 10- They were promised a redeemer.

So long as these basic elements of Catholic teaching on creation are held, Catholics may adopt the theory of evolution. Nevertheless, a Catholic is not obliged to do so, if he or she thinks the evidence is against it. Evolution is a scientific theory, not a theological dogma. It stands or falls on the evidence.

## *Giving in Scriptures*

### *The return of Christian Giving*

If Christian giving is the grace-flow of God's givingness in Christian people, are we to expect anything "in return?" Are we to anticipate any benefit accrued? Are we to look forward to what comes back to us?

To the Corinthians Paul writes in II Cor. 9:6, "he who sows sparingly shall also reap sparingly; and he who sows bountifully shall also reap bountifully." Paul uses the horticultural imagery of "sowing and reaping," planting and harvest, in reference to Christian giving. He seems to be saying there is a "return" on Christian giving. What kind of return? Before we answer that question let us consider several other Scriptures that seem to indicate a "return" on our giving:

"You shall generously give to (your poor brother), and your heart shall not be grieved when you give to him, because for this thing the Lord your God will bless you in all your work and in all your undertakings." (Deuteronomy 15:10)

"Honor the Lord from your wealth, and from the first of all your produce; so your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will overflow with new wine." (Proverbs 3:9,10) "The generous man will be prosperous, and he who waters will himself be watered. ...He who trusts in his riches will fall, but the righteous will flourish like the green leaf." (Proverbs 11:24,25,28) "He who sows iniquity will reap vanity ... He who is generous will be blessed, for he gives some of his food to the poor." (Proverbs 22:8,9)

"Sow with a view to righteousness, reap in accordance with kindness ... It is time to seek the Lord until He comes to rain righteousness on you." (Hosea 10:12) "Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse ... test Me now in this, says the Lord of hosts, if I will not open for you the windows of heaven, and pour out for you a blessing until there is no more need." (Malachi 3:10) "When you give alms ... your Father who sees in secret will repay you." (Matthew 6:4) "Give, and it will be given to you; good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, they will pour into your lap. For whatever measure you deal out to others it will be dealt to you in return." (Luke 6:38)

"If I give to the poor, and do not have love, it profits me nothing." (I Corinthians 13:3) As you might expect, there are those who take these verses which seem to indicate a "return" on our giving, and they encourage others to "give in order to get." They often encourage such by saying, "You can't outgive God!" or "God's shovel is always bigger than your shovel," etc. Sometimes they indicate that if you give to them, God promises to give back ten or a hundred times as much.

One fellow received an appeal letter from a religious organization which read, "If you will just give us \$100, God will give you back ten times as much, \$1000." The man responded by writing to the organization: "If you really believe what you say, then you send me the \$100, and you can keep the \$1000." What a way to expose the fraudulence of such a fund-raising scheme!

In their attempts to legitimize this idea of a ten or hundred-fold "return" they usually refer to what the Scripture says about "sowing bountifully and reaping bountifully." Some have referred to "seed-faith" giving, indicating that the seed-money you give will produce a hundred-fold harvest. The only problem is that it is a mutant seed that is sown! It is seed mixed with sinful, selfish desires of the flesh which produces only a crop of corruption as Paul expresses in Galatians 6:7-10.

There is no way that we can "prime the pump" and bribe God into giving us more "things" or everything we might want. Such a self-indulgent, "gimme" religion that promises health, wealth and success is foreign to the Christian gospel!

When Jesus was telling the parable of the sower and the soils recorded in Mark 4:3-20, He did speak of the seed which grew up and increased thirty, sixty and a hundred-fold. But He explained that the reason the seed does not increase in harvest is due to "the deceitfulness of riches, and the desire for other things" (Mark 4:19). The "seed" He was referring to was not "seed-money," but the gospel of Jesus Christ!

There are an abundance of profiteering promoters promising people that if they will give to them, God will make them rich. "God wants you rich!" "Prosperity is your Divine Right!" "Live like a King's Kid!" They often use verses from II Corinthians 8 and 9 to "proof-text" their appeal. Does it not say that Jesus did what He did so you "might become rich?" (8:9) Does it not say that such giving "is to your advantage?" (8:10) Does it not say that you will "reap bountifully?" (9:6) Does it not say that, "you will be enriched in everything for all liberality?" (9:11)

Paul was not referring to becoming rich or reaping a "return" materially or monetarily. If Paul had used the reasoning to these promoters why did he not just tell the poor saints in Jerusalem to give until it hurts out of their poverty, and God would make them rich? There would not have been any need for Paul to receive gifts from other Christians on their behalf. Such profiteering false-prophets today apparently presume that Paul was engaged in the same kind of "scam" they are involved in.

The Bible never says that God wants us rich materially or that wealth is some sort of slide-rule for measuring spirituality and God's blessing on our lives. On the contrary, God warns us about the "deceitfulness of riches" (Mark 14:8). Jesus said that you cannot serve two masters; you cannot serve God and mammon (riches)" (Luke 16:13). On another occasion Jesus said, "It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a

needle, than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God" (Luke 18:25). Paul advised Timothy that, "those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a snare and many foolish and harmful desires which plunge men into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all sorts of evil, and some by longing for it have wandered away from the faith, and pierced themselves with many a pang. Flee from these things, you man of God; and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, perseverance and gentleness." (I Timothy 6:9-11) The only riches God wants us to aspire for are the "true riches" (Luke 16:11), the "treasures of heaven" (Matthew 6:20), the "unfathomable riches of Christ" (Ephesians 3:8), the "riches of His grace" (Ephesians 1:7), the "riches of His glory" (Romans 9:23; Ephesians 3:16; Philippians 4:19; Colossians 1:27). When Paul writes that, "we become rich" (II Corinthians 8:9), he is referring to the richness of the fullness of the character of God in the Christian. When he says, "you will be enriched" (II Cor. 9:11), he is referring to "the harvest of righteousness" mentioned previously, the continued conformity to the image and character expression of Jesus Christ in the Christian. So the "sowing and reaping" imagery that Paul employs is not a "giving in order to get" or giving in order to get rich.

To "sow" in Biblical times was to take some seed in one's hand and to "let it go" and thus scatter it in the places where it might grow. To "sow" is to "let it go," give it up, and it appears that it is lost forever. The growing of that seed and the harvesting of that seed is not our business; that is the business of God's grace. We simply choose to "let go" of that which we know is God's already.

As noted, the principle of "sowing and reaping" and the idea of getting a "return" on our giving is so easily perverted by those who think with merely a temporal perspective, those who think only in terms of tangible things and dollars and cents. The Scriptures do not indicate that our giving will elicit from God a re-compensation, a re-payment or a replenishing in direct proportion, or in greater measure, than that which we have given. The Scriptures do indicate that the spiritual derivation of our sowing will determine the spiritual derivation of our reaping. If we plant, sow, give in accord with His character, then we will reap, harvest and be supplied in accord with His character. If our giving is an expression of God's character of grace and love, and expression of His "good blessing," then the return will be likewise, the "good blessings" of His character of righteousness and holiness and godliness.

The return of Christian giving is a spiritual return, and not necessarily a material return. The return is the continued receipt of God's grace that prompted genuine Christian giving in the first place. It is not for us to be overly preoccupied with the "return" anyway. We are just responsible to be available channels of God's grace by faithful receptivity of His activity. We just "sow," let it go, and what comes up is God's business. It is impossible for us to evaluate the proportionality of the "return," especially if we do not let the left hand know what the right hand is doing" (Matthew 6:3).

The return on Christian giving is a continued and fuller appreciation of the fullness of blessing that we have in Jesus Christ (Ephesians 1:3), the joy of being vessels through whom God is working and fulfilling His intent for the functionality of our humanity.

## ***Spirituality: Silence before Mass***

Silence is sacred. No words can adequately express the mystery of God. Everything we try to say falls short. In quiet, we can sense God's presence even more deeply than in sound.

At designated times of the Mass, we fall silent to offer prayers, to reflect on the Scripture or to thank God for the Eucharist. But even before the celebration itself it is commendable that silence be observed in the church so that all may dispose themselves to carry out the sacred action in a devout and fitting manner.

Many sounds precede Mass. At home and in the car, you may have the television or radio on, or you may be conversing with family and friends about many things. At church, in the minutes before Mass begins, you might hear people greeting people, someone leading a rosary, coins plunking in the poor box, the choir play a prelude ... All these sounds serve some purpose, and they help prepare us for the Eucharist.

But some time of silence beforehand helps everyone enter the Mass devoutly. In silent prayer, we think about the role we are to play, the songs we will sing, the prayers we will offer, the Scriptures we will hear, the sacrifice we make, the service we give to our neighbor, and the presence of Jesus Christ, who comes to us in sacrament to nourish us at this Mass and throughout the week. His holiness renders us speechless.

## *Wisdom: Values*

To realize The value of a sister/brother, ask someone Who doesn't have one.

To realize The value of ten years, ask a newly Divorced couple.

To realize The value of four years, ask a graduate.

To realize The value of one year, ask a student who has failed a final exam.

To realize The value of nine months, ask a mother who gave birth to a stillborn.

To realize The value of one month, ask a mother Who has given birth to a premature baby.

To realize The value of one week, ask an editor of a weekly newspaper.

To realize The value of one minute, ask a person who has missed the train, bus or plane.

To realize The value of one second, ask a person who has survived an accident.

Time waits for no one. Treasure every moment you have.

You will treasure it even more when you can share it with someone special.

To realize the value of a friend or family member, LOSE ONE.

Remember to hold on tight to the ones you love!

## *Story: A miracle gave me chills*

One afternoon, a couple was traveling on the road when all of a sudden at a far distance they saw woman in the middle of the road asking them to stop.

Far in the distance, the wife told her husband to keep on driving because it might be too dangerous, but the husband decided to pass by slowly so he wouldn't stay with the doubt on his mind of what might have happened and the chances of anyone being hurt.

As they got closer, they noticed a woman with cuts and bruises on her face as well as on her arms. They then decide to stop and see if they could be of any help. The cut and bruised woman was begging for help telling them that she had been in a car accident and that her husband and son, a new born baby, were still inside the car which was in a deep ditch. She told them that the husband was already dead but that her baby seemed to still be alive.

Down in the Ditch, the husband that was traveling decided to get down and try to rescue the baby and he asked the hurt woman to stay with his wife inside their car.

When he got down he noticed two people in the front seats of the car, but he didn't pay any importance to it and took out the baby quickly and got up to take the baby to it's mother.

Where did she go? When he got up, he didn't see the mother anywhere so he asked his wife where she had gone. She told him that the woman followed him back to the crashed car. The man decided to go look for the woman, he noticed that clearly the two people in the front seats were dead; a woman and a man with both their seatbelts on. When he looked closer, he noticed that it was the exact same woman that was begging them for help in the beginning.

Do you think that it was a miracle of God? The Baby now lives with family members and he will live to tell the story.

## *Jokes (170)*

### *Babblespeak*

The following notice was sent home with some high school students: "Our school's cross-graded, multiethnic, individualized learning program is designed to enhance the concept of an open-ended learning program on the continuum of multiethnic, academically enriched learning, using the identified intellectually gifted child as the agent of his own learning."

One parent sent back a note that read, "I have a college degree and speak two foreign languages and four Indian dialects ..., but I haven't the faintest idea what you are talking about."

Has our communication become so loaded with babblespeak that no one understands what we are saying?

Care about Terminology

A psychiatrist was concerned about his nurse's office procedure so he said to her, "When you answer the phone, just say, 'We're terribly busy just now,' instead of 'It's a madhouse.'"

## ***Floating Memo***

From a principal's memo to the district superintendent: "On Tuesday a frozen water pipe broke and flooded four classrooms. Alternative arrangements were made by doubling classes and having special teachers float."

## ***Humorous Headlines***

Father of Nine Fined \$100 for Failing to Stop  
 Dead Policeman on Force Twenty-Three Years  
 Twenty-Six-Year Friendship Ends at Altar  
 Man Found Dead in Cemetery  
 Nine Volunteers Put in New Church Furnace  
 Florist Asks Girls to Drop Strapless Gowns  
 Babies Flood Hospital  
 Escaped Leopard Believed Spotted  
 City Officials Talk Rubbish

## ***Famous Quotes (63)***

--Withdraw your foot from your neighbor's house; lest he be weary of you, and so hate you.

(Old Testament, Proverbs)

--If you are a host to your guest, be a host to his dog also. (Russian proverb)

--"You may be disappointed if you fail, but you are doomed if you don't try." (Beverly SILLS)

--This is a really good idea. Next time you come home for the night and you put your keys away, think of this: -

--It's a **security alarm system** that you probably already have and requires no installation.

--Start keeping your car keys next to your bed on the night stand when you go to bed at night. If you think someone is trying to get into your house, or if you hear a noise outside your house, just press the panic alarm on your car key chain. This is your car alarm.

--Test it! It will go off from most everywhere Inside your house and will keep honking until your battery runs down or until you reset it with the button on the key fob chain. It works if you park in your driveway or garage. If your car alarm goes off when someone is trying to break in your house, odds are the burglar or rapist won't stick around ... after a few seconds all the neighbors will be looking out their windows to see who is out there and sure enough the criminal won't want that.

--Try yours to make sure it works before you rely on it. Just know that you must press the alarm button again to turn it off.

--And remember to carry your keys while walking to your car in a parking lot. The alarm can work the same way there.

--This is something that should really be shared with everyone. Maybe it could save a life or a sexual abuse crime.

--Better be despised for too anxious apprehensions, than mined by too confident security. (Edmund Burke)

--Worry a little bit every day and in a lifetime you will lose a couple of years.

--If something is wrong, fix it if you can. But train yourself not to worry. Worry never fixes anything. (Mary Hemingway)

--Climb High, Climb Far. Your goal the sky, Your aim the star."

(Inscription on Hopkins Memorial Steps Williams College, Williamstown, Massachusetts)

--"If you aspire to the highest place, it is no disgrace to stop at the second, or even the third, place." (Cicero)

--"Look to a gown of gold, and you will at least get a sleeve of it." (Sir Walter Scott)

--"Ah, but a man's reach should exceed his grasp or what's a heaven for?" (Robert Browning)

--"If you aspire to anything better than politics, expect no cooperation from men. They will not further anything good. You must prevail of your own force, as a plant springs and grows by its own vitality." (Henry David Thoreau)

--“Bite off more than you can chew, then chew it.

--Plan more than you can do, then do it.” (Anonymous)

--“Be yourself and speak your mind today, though it contradicts all you have said before.” (Elbert Hubbard)

--“I don’t think of all the misery, but of the beauty that still remains. My advice is: Go outside, to the fields, enjoy nature and the sunshine, go out and try to recapture happiness in yourself and in God. Think of all the beauty that’s still left in and around you and be happy!” (Anne Frank)