

7th Sunday Ordinary Time "C" *Do unto others as you would have them do to you.*  
Readings: 1 Samuel 26:2,7-9,12-13, 22-23; 1 Corinthians 15:45-49; Luke 6:27-38  
February 23-24, 2019/ Catholic Services Appeal weekend

Today's Gospel contains a type of moral code that ought to characterize the life of a disciple of Christ. It is summarized in the so-called golden rule of moral action: "Do to others as you would like them to do to you." The Old Testament knew it in a negative form: "Do to no one what you yourself hate." (Tobit 4:15). Jesus proposes it positively: "Do to others as you would have them to do to you," which is much more demanding.

It is more demanding because our Christian life is about more than avoiding evil; it is about performing acts of virtue, seeking the good, desiring to live in holiness before God. We will always fall short of God's invitation to communion with him if we reduce the Christian life to one of avoiding sin. Jesus was trying to get his disciples to see this basic point by questioning the virtue in loving those who are lovable. What about the others? Where is the merit in loving those who do only good to us?

Performing acts of virtue are perhaps strongest when we do them for another, especially one whom we do not know. I can still recall when my 1<sup>st</sup> grade Montessori class adopted an inner-city Minneapolis parish. We brought gift baskets over to the children. It had never occurred to me that kids my age may not be able to receive gift during the Christmas or Easter holidays. It was an eye opener I will never forget.

"Give, and gifts will be given to you; a good measure, packed together, shaken down, and overflowing, will be poured into your lap." St. Alphonsus Liguori, the patron saint of Moral Theologians wrote that we ought to practice charity towards our neighbors first in our thoughts, then in our words and finally in our actions. We presume the best of others and practice fraternal charity in thoughts. How much more the case with those in need; we may legitimately consider what is the best way to help the poor, what will truly be effective in the long term. Consider the CSA:

Young adults figure prominently in this year's appeal: Saint Paul Outreach, U of M Newman Center Youth Ministry. Scholarships for our families who want to send their kids to Catholic schools but for whom the tuition is out of reach. These scholarships make it possible for many who otherwise would not have the opportunity.

Do we think often about our brothers and sisters who are ill? Catholic chaplains in the hospitals are vitally important; most institutions no longer pay the freight for Catholic chaplains.

We support life and so to offer support to Abria Pregnancy Resources is a welcome addition this year to the Appeal. This outstanding organization is saving lives, setting up shop practically across the street from the largest abortion provider in the state of MN. And when women have come to the realization that their lives have been wounded by the decision to have an abortion, we too are there by supporting Rachel's Vineyard, the powerful retreat program designed to bring healing to post-abortive women, many of whom because the very strongest advocates for life.

We need solid young men to study for the priesthood, and desire to support a program of formation that will ensure the best training of those who want to serve with a servant's heart. It cannot be an easy time to be a seminarian, and these men's zeal truly inspires me.

Programs that support engaged couples and married couples, the excellent work of the Council of Catholic Women from the Archdiocese. Truly, this year's campaign is broad and carefully considered.

Jesus shows us a better way, the arduous road of forgiveness and overflowing mercy, given freely and in full measure. Let us thank God whom we worship here in Church in the beauty of holiness and seek to return our gifts by assisting those in need. May God graciously accept the work of our hands, offered to His honor and glory.

# CATHOLIC SERVICES APPEAL FOUNDATION-

## WHERE THE MONEY WILL GO

ACCW <sub>(ARCHDIOCESAN COUNCIL OF CATHOLIC WOMEN)</sub>	\$25,585
CAMPUS MINISTRY—NEWMAN CENTER	\$264,000
CAMPUS MINISTRY—ST PAUL’S OUTREACH	\$11,000
CATHOLIC CHARITIES	\$700,000
ARCHDIOCESAN OFFICE OF DEAF MINISTRY	\$39,733
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL SUBSIDIES & SCHOLARSHIPS	\$1,703,125
ARCHDIOCESAN OFFICE OF EVANGELIZATION	\$150,000
CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIPS	\$800,000
ARCHDIOCESAN HOSPITAL CHAPLAINS	\$600,000
ARCHDIOCESAN OFFICE OF AMERICAN INDIAN MINISTRY	\$200,000
ARCHDIOCESAN OFFICE OF LATINO MINISTRY	\$350,000
ARCHDIOCESAN OFFICE OF MARRIAGE, FAMILY & LIFE	\$256,000
PARISHES	\$1,840,000
ARCHDIOCESAN PRISON CHAPLAINS	\$32,000
THE SEMINARIES OF SAINT PAUL	\$1,063,807
ARCHDIOCESAN VENEZUELAN MISSION	\$110,000
YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY	\$64,000
RACHEL’S VINEYARD TWIN CITIES	\$26,875
ABRIA PREGNANCY RESOURCES	\$50,000
ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY	\$50,000
TOTAL MINISTRIES	\$8,336,125
EXPENSES	\$963,875
TOTAL AMOUNT	<b>\$9,300,000</b>