



Jesus Christ, our All in all
CrossTalk's 25th Anniversary

18 - 24 Oct, 2020

Generosity

'Nothing that you have not given away will ever be yours'
C S Lewis

Jesus' standard of generosity is different than the humans'

- † To whom much is given, much is expected; the widow's offering
(Mk 12:41-44)
- † Give without expecting anything in return (Lk 6:34-35)
- † *'Then Jesus said to his host, 'When you give a luncheon or dinner, do not invite your friends, your brothers or sisters, your relatives, or your rich neighbors; if you do, they may invite you back and so you will be repaid. But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, and you will be blessed. Although they cannot repay you, you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous' Lk 14:12-14*
- † The parable of the great feast (Lk 14:15-24)
- † CrossTalk members gave to the children at Deir Mar Semaan willingly without expecting anything in return, neither invitations nor gifts

Generosity does not weaken nor deprive the giver but makes him hundredfold richer (1Kgs 17: 8-16; Mk 10: 29-31)

- † So do not be afraid to give
- † We can never out give God
- † Giving to others what God has so richly given to us yields in joy, security and freedom that cannot be obtained from elsewhere

The biggest act of generosity is Jesus giving Himself totally to us

- † He left the Kingdom of Heaven and descended to earth
- † He took the human nature forever, although His Divine nature did not diminish

Give the best that you have

- † *'And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men'*
Col 3:23
- † Giving our leftovers is very good but it is not to be considered as giving
- † Christ told us that whatever we do to the least of His brothers we do it for Him (*Mt 25:31-46*)
- † Deir Mar Semaan's children await CrossTalk gifts because CrossTalk members give their best toys to them
- † CrossTalk tries its best to distribute the gifts fairly. We pray and rely on the Holy Spirit to guide us

Mother Teresa says the strongest form of generosity is to give your own time

- † Rafic Saadeh, the director at Deir Mar Semaan, said, 'Many people send us gifts and food, but none like CrossTalk who come along with their food and gifts. CrossTalk come and spend their time with our children, giving us joy and love'

'do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing' (Mt 6:3)

The truth is:

- † All that we have and own is from the Lord and to the Lord
(Gn 1; Ps 24:1; Ps 50:9-12)
- † We are only stewards; holding the property in trust for another
 - A faithful steward does not forget that all that he has is not his
 - This is when giving becomes sharing
- † Freely we were given (*Mt 10:8*)

The fruit of generosity

- † It is by giving that you receive
- † Give up worldly things and you will receive priceless things
- † By giving we will be on the image and likeness of God

Bibliography

1. Unless otherwise noted, all Biblical passages referenced are from the New King James Version

Legend

 Refers to mandatory readings

Verse to memorize

'Everything comes from You, and we have given You only what comes from Your hand' 1 Chr 29:14

In my Prayer and Faith Autobiography Book

God acts

† Christ gave me His life

My reaction

† Am I ready to give all that I have with others?

† Am I willing to lay my life to others?

During the coming week, let us pray expectantly

1. seeking the Lord's will to be done in Lebanon
2. for CrossTalk to find a locale
3. for David, Gisele, Habib and Karim
4. to become more of saints and less of sinners
5. to seek the Lord in every word I say, every act I do and every thought I think
6. to help in building His Kingdom by building His Church on earth
7. to deny ourselves, carry our cross and follow Him
8. to thank Him for creating us and each one around us, on His image and likeness, and choosing us to reveal His splendor
9. to all the sick, namely Marie
10. to all those in prison
11. to the unity of the Christians
12. to one another to be honest and not lack integrity
13. to put all that we have in the Lord's hands trusting His management
14. to all the Christians who are being persecuted, and to those who are persecuting them
15. to all families, that the Lord unites the parents together in His Name and stops all fights
16. to the situation in Lebanon, the region, and the whole world

During this coming week, we will lift the Roman Catholic Church in prayer

قانون الايمان
نؤمن بالله واحد
أب ضابط الكل
خالق السماء والأرض
كل ما يرى وما لا يرى
وبرب واحد يسوع المسيح ابن الله الوحيد
المولود من الأب قبل كل الدهور
إله من إله، نور من نور، إله حق من إله حق
مولود غير مخلوق
مساو للأب في الجوهر
الذي به كان كل شيء
الذي من أجلنا نحن البشر، ومن أجل خلاصنا
نزل من السماء
و تجسد من الروح القدس، ومن مريم العذراء
وصار إنساناً
وصُلب عنا على عهد بيلاطس البنطي
تألم ومات و قُبر وقام في اليوم الثالث كما جاء في الكتب
وصعد إلى السماء
وجلس عن يمين الله الأب
أيضاً يأتي بمجد عظيم
ليدين الأحياء والأموات
الذي لا فناء لملكه
وبالروح القدس، الرب المحيي
المنبثق من الأب والابن، الذي هو مع الأب والابن
يُسجد له ويُمجَّد الناطق بالأنبياء والرسل
وبكنيسة واحدة، جامعة، مقدسة، رسولية
ونعترف بمعمودية واحدة لمغفرة الخطايا
ونترجى قيامة الموتى والحياة في الدهر الآتي
أمين

الصلاة الربانية

أبانا الذي في السموات
ليتقدس اسمك
ليأت ملكوتك
ليتكن مشيئتك
كما في السماء
كذلك على الأرض
أعطنا خبزنا كفاف يومنا
واغفر لنا ذنوبنا وخطايانا
كما نحن نغفر
لمن أخطأ وأساء إلينا
ولا ندخلنا في التجارب
لكن نجنا من الشرير
أمين