

(TAKE HOME SHEET) (Pass this on to someone.)

What is the Mystery of Generosity?

Did you know there is a mystery involved in generosity? The freer we are in sharing, the freer we will be from want of all kinds. Our worldly mind tries to tell us the opposite. Our big lie says, *the more I hang on to things the more I'll have*, but it doesn't work that way in life. Tightwad scrooge just is not a winner. Selfishly hoarding for number-one leaves self a loser in the end. That's a hard mystery to swallow but success at all levels depends on learning this secret; the first shall be last and the last shall be first. This is not only in the heavenly realm but works surprisingly well in earthly matters too.

Who should I be generous to? Everyone; Start with your wife and kids, including grown children; Parents, brothers and sisters, neighbors, the poor and needy, and with employees. Yes employees; The richest people, from Henry Ford to Bill Gates got there by being especially generous with their employees. You see, it's not just a religious thing. God, however, is the designer of this reality and it works for everyone.

This brings us to generosity with God. Generosity goes hand in hand with love, joy, peace and the other fruits of the Holy Spirit. (Galatians 5:22). The Old Testament Prophet Malachi, (Mal. 3:10) reminds us to be generous to God (alive today in His Church) and He will, "*open the floodgates of heaven and pour down blessings without measure.*" God is infinitely generous. By imitating His generosity we open the channels of His blessings. We cannot out-give God.

True generosity is always a sacrifice. There is no worship without sacrifice. We have a personal need to support our parish, not just because the Church has needs, but because we each have the deeper need for true and generous worship. Worship means sacrifice.

If a parish somehow got a windfall million and now the parishioners decided they no longer needed to give, the parish would die. The community and households themselves would lack prosperity for want of God's blessings. This is how the **mystery of generosity** works.