



Catholic Youth Expeditions Philosophy on Charitable Giving

In today's complex financial world, we are called more than ever to economic social responsibility. Specifically, we as Catholics must make every effort to be aware of who and where we receive financial gifts for our own financial solubility. Our mission is that of the Gospel, namely the words of our Savior and Lord Jesus Christ. His words are very exacting and call us to a high level of generosity. As such, we must heed a mentality of TRUE sacrificial giving. What does Catholic Youth Expeditions mean by that?

Sacrificial giving is an immediate giving of one's blessings. It calls forth from the giver a gift which is unconditional. A gift that does not excuse them from making an immediate sacrifice in their lives. It is easy to give out of excess, but it is an entirely another thing to give from what little one has. As the widow approached the temple treasury and put in two small coins worth a few cents, Jesus says, "Amen, I say to you, this poor widow put in more than all the other contributors of the treasury. For they have contributed from their surplus wealth, but she, from her poverty, has contributed all she had, her whole livelihood." (Mark 12:41-44). An unconditional gift is a gift freely given with no strings attached and no motivation for honors, respect or praise. Jesus says, "Take care not to perform righteous deeds in order that people may see them; otherwise, you will have no recompense from your heavenly Father. When you give alms, do not blow a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets to win the praise of others. Amen, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right is doing, so that your almsgiving may be secret. And your Father who sees in secret will repay you." (Matthew 6:1-4)

Sadly even many Catholic institutions have sold-out in accepting gifts from donors without taking measures to see if those funds reflect true sacrificial and unconditional giving. In addition, we can easily overlook morally unethical investments because of the tantalizing prospect of what we may gain. As a Catholic Apostolate rooted in mission, our goal is to make informed and conscious decisions that reflect Gospel values. Not only that, but we have an obligation to teach and lead others to a clearer understanding of authentic tithing. We have the responsibility of calling others to true Gospel values.

Materialism and consumerism are rampant false ideologies of our 21st century and in a market-driven economy often fueled by greed rather than charity, it is all too easy to compromise core Gospel principles. Unknowingly at times, we begin making decision reflective of these false stewardships rather than truly reflecting on the words of Jesus. We must take into account the forces in our economy that directly work against true Gospel charity. There is no substitute to a gift which is sacrificial. With multiple investing schemes for charitable giving, one can be lead to believe that they can give after they die. One certainly can continue to give after death and this can be a good thing. But does this call them to give from what they have now? Does this call them to the immediacy of giving without counting the cost? Perhaps these are questions worth pondering.

Catholic Youth Expeditions is committed to the following criteria for giving:

Our primary and preferred reception of a gift is from an individual who makes a gift because they know and believe in our mission.

In the work of institutional advancement, we will strive to personally know those who give.

We will not invest our money, but remain completely dependent on God's providential care. If we need to save money, we will.

We will not save money for the sake of accruing interest in order to secure our future.

We can be open to accepting gifts from charitable foundations, trusts or grants but will carefully discern if their investments compromise Catholic moral principles. In addition, we look to see if a particular [community] foundation's criteria for charitable organizations matches the mission of the Roman Catholic Church.

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