

GENEROSITY

FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT (7 OF 12)

Derived from the Latin word generōsus, meaning "of noble birth," which itself was passed down to English through the Old French word generous.

We are to extend ourselves to all of mankind, especially the most needy. To do so, we are emulating Jesus who went after the one lost sheep. To love is to give. God loves us and He gives us everything He wants us to have.

When we give, as our Lord encourages, we truly deny ourselves. Generosity must be done in silence in order to merit grace from God and not merely the thanksgiving of mortal men. It is very easy to be generous to our relatives or friends but that is not generosity since we will be repaid for that with friendship, thanksgiving and praise. Generosity must extend to the poor and the needy. It is a quest for justice as we have the work of God to provide for those who don't have.

NEW AMERICAN BIBLE REFERENCES

As [Matthew 5:39-48](#) shares with us, we are not to be generous with only those we love or those who love us: "But I say to you, offer no resistance to one who is evil. When someone strikes you on (your) right cheek, turn the other one to him as well. If anyone wants to go to law with you over your tunic, hand him your cloak as well. Should anyone press you into service for one mile, go with him for two miles. Give to the one who asks of you, and do not turn your back on one who wants to borrow. "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I say to you, love your enemies, and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children of your heavenly Father, for he makes his sun rise on the bad and the good, and causes rain to fall on the just and the unjust. For if you love those who love you, what recompense will you have? Do not the tax collectors do the same? And if you greet your brothers only, what is unusual about that? Do not the pagans do the same? So be perfect, just as your heavenly Father is perfect."

CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH(CCC) REFERENCES

There are 9 references to GENEROSITY in the CCC. Please click [HERE](#) to review them (available on line only).

Those listed below are taken from the Index:
none.

<http://cmvic.net/generosity-fruit>