

From the Desk of Miss Wilber

December 11, 2020

*“Lord, teach me to be generous, to serve you as you deserve,
to give and not to count the cost, to fight and not to heed the wounds,
to toil and not to seek for rest, to labor and not to look for any reward,
save that of knowing that I do your holy will. Amen.”*

This is the virtue prayer we recite each morning as a school asking for an increase of generosity in ourselves. I am impressed by its broad view of this virtue. How it is asking for generosity in all aspects of our lives, that we will be generous not just with our material possessions but with our very selves. It helps us to realize that we have so much to give. We have time, energy, talents, skills, love, mercy and more.

In order to be truly generous, we must have an awareness of the needs of others. While we often come across people in need of food, clothing, or other material goods, we even more often come across people in need of encouragement, hope, joy, peace, or other immaterial goods. To be truly generous, we must give freely to others from our surplus in any area of our lives. If we have lots of energy, then we can share our enthusiasm with those who feel they are dragging. If we are joyful, then we can share our joy and happiness with those who are feeling down. If we have peace in our lives, then we can bring that peace into relationships with those who are feeling anxious or angry.

I hope we will all take the time this Advent season to reflect and ask God to reveal to us the ways in which we are being called to be generous to others. Lord, help us to see the needs of others. Lord, help us to see where we have a surplus. Lord, help us to find ways to share our surplus with those around us. I do believe that in being generous, we realize how truly generous God has been with us. We cannot outdo God in generosity!

If in your efforts to be generous, you come face-to-face with your own limitations, your own weakness, your own humanity, finding that you do not have what is needed for a certain person or situation, then remember the generosity of the Father who sent His only Son as an infant lying in a manger. Remember that while we are limited and so our generosity inevitably is limited, God is not. God is infinite, all-knowing, and all-loving. He has a surplus of all things (material and immaterial). As Scripture tells us, “every good and perfect gift comes down from the Father who created all the lights in the heavens” (James 1:17).

We have a God Who hears our prayers. Pray for those in need, for your loved ones, even for yourselves. God loves you and wants to provide for you. As this Advent continues, let us await Him with arms wide open ready to receive all He has to offer. And by His generosity may we too be made generous.

Sincerely,
Miss Wilber