

Rector's Note

10.1.26

A new stewardship season will be starting soon, and St Martin's is again using the Consecration Sunday model to invite each of us to think and pray about what God is calling us to give.

Consecration Sunday is about proportionate giving -- choosing to give a percentage of whatever money we get, whenever we get it. Whether that percentage is 1% or 10% is less important than how we give. Giving this way means taking that percentage off the top, as soon as we are paid, as often as we are paid. Off the top, given first, before any bills are paid or purchases are made.

We give because we are thankful. We give because we know that what God gives us is more than we could ever pay back. And we give because it helps us. Giving off the top, letting go some of what we get, helps us to become more free. It can help us be less anxious about money, and about other things. As a regular practice, proportional giving can grow our trust in God, to trust that we will have enough.

Another benefit of giving a small amount every time we receive money, is how it adds up over time. At the end of the year we look back and say, Wow, look what I did! And we can wonder, What else could I do?

It is the opposite of how many of us usually do our giving, which is to wait until the absolute end of a month, or season, or year, and see what is left over. Our Consecration Sunday team is ready once again to invite us all into seeing what we can do, and what God can do with us.

This Sunday we will bless animals in honor of St Francis, someone whose life was changed completely when he walked away from his family wealth to live in solidarity with the poor and to minister to people with leprosy.

Few of us are called to live in such a radical way. And yet looking at Francis' life can give us a glimpse into God's abundance. Because not only did Francis get by with no monastery and no regular source of income, he often had a problem with managing the people and donations he attracted. Folks saw the good work Francis was doing and were moved, to join and to give to that work.

So come and be with us on Sunday, bring your animal friends to be blessed after the 9 and 10:30 services, and keep open to where God is calling you to give of yourself and your gifts this season. Let us see what we can do together, and where God will take us next!

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