

# Dear Padre,

## It seems like the Church always asks for money. Why should I donate?

**T**he Church is a global organization representing institutions with growing needs—parishes, schools, charities, and mission societies, for example. If it seems like they “always ask for money,” it’s because there is a constant need to maintain these services. Indeed, the Vatican donates substantial funds to many charities.

Financial support has always been part of Christian community life. Jesus instructed his apostles to rely on the generosity and hospitality of those to whom they preached (see Luke 10:7). Early Christians gave contributions to the apostles to be distributed among widows and orphans. In fact, the early

Church’s charitable activities were so extensive, it led to the formation of the diaconate, with deacons focusing on charitable work while the apostles preached (see Acts 6:1–6).

Some observe that the Church owns splendid churches and artwork. “Why doesn’t the Church sell these assets to fund their operations?” they ask. Indeed, as worshipers leave inner-city parishes for the suburbs,

dioceses have tried to sell decommissioned churches. They have discovered that few people can or want to buy a church. As for art treasures, they are part of the Church’s patrimony from previous generations that continues to inspire Catholics today and into the future.

Ultimately, we give in charity, recognizing that it’s Christ to whom we give when we give to the needy. Almsgiving is part of Christian life because of what it does for the recipient and for what giving does for the giver (see Acts 20:35).

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WIRESTOCK.CREATORS / SHUTTERSTOCK

- Monday**  
 SEPTEMBER 5  
*Weekday*  
 1 Cor 5:1–8  
 Lk 6:6–11
- Tuesday**  
 SEPTEMBER 6  
*Weekday*  
 1 Cor 6:1–11  
 Lk 6:12–19
- Wednesday**  
 SEPTEMBER 7  
*Weekday*  
 1 Cor 7:25–31  
 Lk 6:20–26
- Thursday**  
 SEPTEMBER 8  
*Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary*  
 Mi 5:1–4a  
 or Rom 8:28–30  
 Mt 1:1–16, 18–23  
 or 1:18–23
- Friday**  
 SEPTEMBER 9  
*St. Peter Claver, Priest*  
 1 Cor 9:16–19, 22b–27  
 Lk 6:39–42
- Saturday**  
 SEPTEMBER 10  
*Weekday*  
 1 Cor 10:14–22  
 Lk 6:43–49
- Sunday**  
 SEPTEMBER 11  
*Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time*  
 Ex 32:7–11, 13–14  
 1 Tm 1:12–17  
 Lk 15:1–32  
 or 15:1–10

### A WORD FROM *Pope Francis*

*Charity is not a barren service nor a simple offering to be made in order to ease our conscience. What we must never forget is that charity has its origin and its essence in God himself; charity is God our Father’s embrace of every person, particularly of the least and the suffering.*

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