Faith Formation Files: Vol. 1, Issue 29 July 7, 2019

Have you ever been inspired to do something for someone else? Maybe you randomly bought someone’s coffee or paid the fare for the car behind you on a toll bridge. Perhaps you simply held the door for someone who was walking in as you were walking out of a business. Maybe you returned a shopping cart for the mom who was trying to wrangle her 2 toddlers into their car seats. Have you ever donated clothes or household items to a family who lost their home to a fire? What about claiming a tag from our Angel tree at Christmas and returning a stack of wrapped gifts for a child you might never meet? These and many other examples are the types of things that we do to help others.

These are the behaviors and actions that Jesus calls us to have and do. And truth be told, more often than not, we are the real recipients of grace after the interaction occurs. We are the ones who “feel good.” We are encouraged by our own actions to continue to do good for others. In that we are made in God’s image, we are predisposed to desire Him, to want to please Him, to act as He acts. It is natural for us to experience a sense of elation when we help others. God built that into us as part of our design as desire to continue doing so.

You are called to be a disciple of Jesus. At your baptism you were welcomed into God’s family. This membership also imposes upon us an obligation to discharge the duties that go with our Christlikeness, our membership in Christ’s Church. This includes living a life patterned after Jesus. We are called to care for the poor, to help the needy, and, as credited to St. Francis of Assisi, “preach the gospel and if necessary, use words.”

Therefore, I encourage you to participate in our Service Saturdays. Each month we do a different project. Sometimes it happens on site. Other times we go to where the need is. In the past we have had projects that utilized skills such as cooking, use of technology, cleaning, home maintenance, and sewing/knitting/ crocheting. Looking ahead, I need to know what skills or interests you have that might be able to be shared and used to help others. Please feel free to call me at the parish office 231-937-5757, send me an email at faithformation@ctknsf.org, or drop a note in the offertory basket to **let me know what you might be able to do.** No talent or experience is too simple or insignificant. I have lots of ideas for ways to allow you to share your gifts and to assist others. **You are not too old, too poor, or too lacking in talent.** You may need support in identifying what your skills are or how they can be utilized to benefit those in the community. That’s what I’m for. **Help me help you help others. I look forward to hearing from each and every one of you!**

 Blessings,

 Julie Gould