



How to Encourage Generosity While Social Distancing

DISCIPLESHIP &
STEWARDSHIP
WEBINAR SERIES

DIOCESE OF SPRINGFIELD
IN ILLINOIS

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Prayer

For all who have contracted coronavirus, we pray for care and healing.

For those who are particularly vulnerable, we pray for safety and protection.

For all who experience fear or anxiety, we pray for peace of mind and spirit.

For affected families who are facing difficult decisions, we pray for comfort and assistance to help them in their struggle.

For our brothers and sisters around the world, we pray for shared solidarity.

For public officials and decisionmakers, we pray for wisdom and guidance.

Father, during this time may your Church be a sign of hope, comfort and love to all.
Be with us, Lord.

Amen.

Agenda

I. Intro, Prayer

II. Why generosity?

III. Who needs our generosity?

IV. Where can we be generous?

V. How can we be generous? (Four Pillars and Prayer, Participation, Giving)

VI. Questions & Answers Time!

Generosity & Accompaniment

- God is calling us in unprecedented ways
- COVID 19 is currently inviting us into daily practices of generosity inside and outside of our homes- Domestic Church
- The Mission does NOT stop in crisis
- Can we be a people who respond to fear and uncertainty with intentional and radical compassion?

We always have...

Let's see some research

According to [The Generosity Gap](#), a new Barna report produced in partnership with Thrivent Financial, there are some significant gaps among the generational groups on what counts as generosity, how it's practiced and its overall importance among life's competing priorities.

<https://www.barna.com/research/generations-generosity-age-affects-giving/>

What is Generosity?

“Service” (32%) and “emotional / relational support” (30%) are the two most popular responses among American Christians when asked what actions they associate with the concept of “giving to others.”

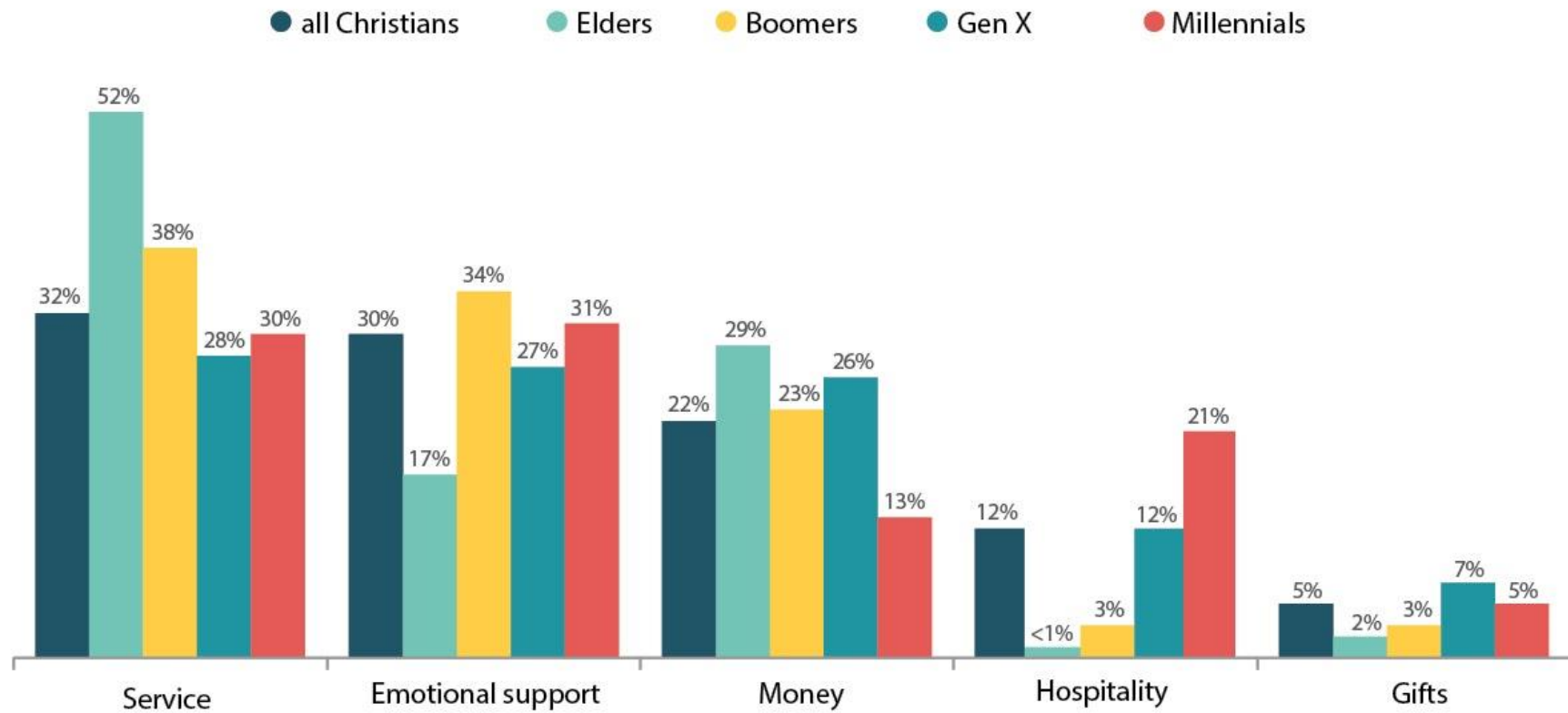
Surprisingly, donating money is third on the list, and only one-fifth of adults selects it as their top expression of “giving to others.”

Millennials prioritize hospitality far more than money as an expression of generosity.

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TYPES OF ACTIONS STRONGLY ASSOCIATED WITH GENEROSITY

Barna



n=1,556 (U.S. Interested Christians) | July 2016

Researchers found that people most strongly associate their own chosen means of *expressing* generosity with their *ideal* of generosity.

Serving or volunteering and offering relational support are the most common expressions of generosity across generations.

PEOPLE CONSIDER THEIR PREFERRED ACTS OF GENEROSITY TO BE MOST GENEROUS

Barna

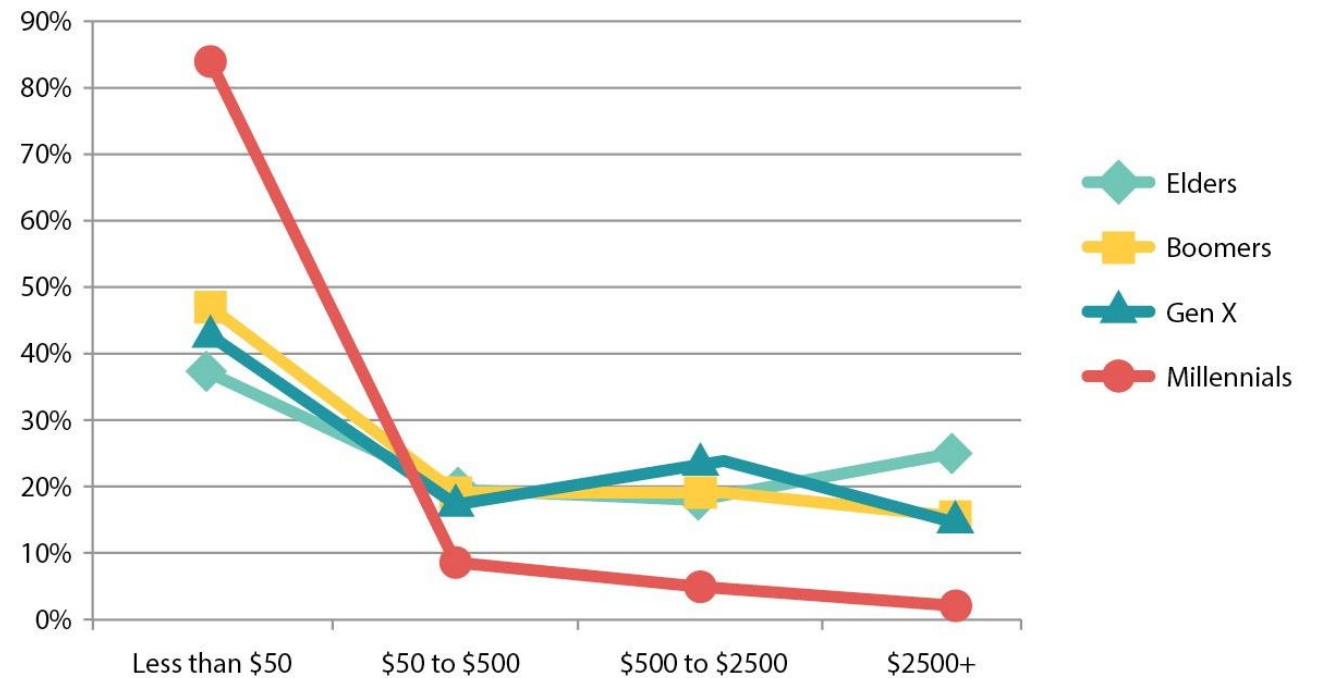
In what way are you most often generous to others?	Which type of giving do you personally see as most strongly associated with generosity?				
	% Money	% Emotional / relational support	% Gifts	% Hospitality	% Service
Monetary support	40	6	9	8	12
Emotional / relational support	17	62	19	15	23
Gifts	12	7	54	10	8
Hospitality	10	9	7	46	5
Service / volunteering	17	12	8	20	49

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When it comes to financial giving, what do we give?

SELF-REPORTED DONATIONS FOR LAST YEAR, BY GENERATION

Barna



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THE ULTIMATE FINANCIAL GOAL FOR LIFE, BY GENERATION

Barna

Practicing Christians report giving an average (median) of \$1,400 a year to their church- somewhere between 3 and 4 percent of their disposable income (based on the average U.S. net income of \$39,424).

Serving God with one's money is, for most people, not as urgent as other financial goals.

	% all Christians	% Millennials	% Gen X	% Boomers	% Elders
1. Provide for my family	22	31	18	18	13
2. Support the lifestyle I want	15	14	17	13	7
3. Meet my obligations and needs	13	8	15	15	16
4. Be content	13	11	14	13	14
5. Give charitably	11	8	11	15	18
6. Serve God with my money	10	10	9	11	19
7. Establish a financial legacy	7	7	8	6	6
8. Be debt-free	6	6	5	6	4
9. Show my talent / hard work	2	4	1	1	-
10. Other	2	1	2	2	4

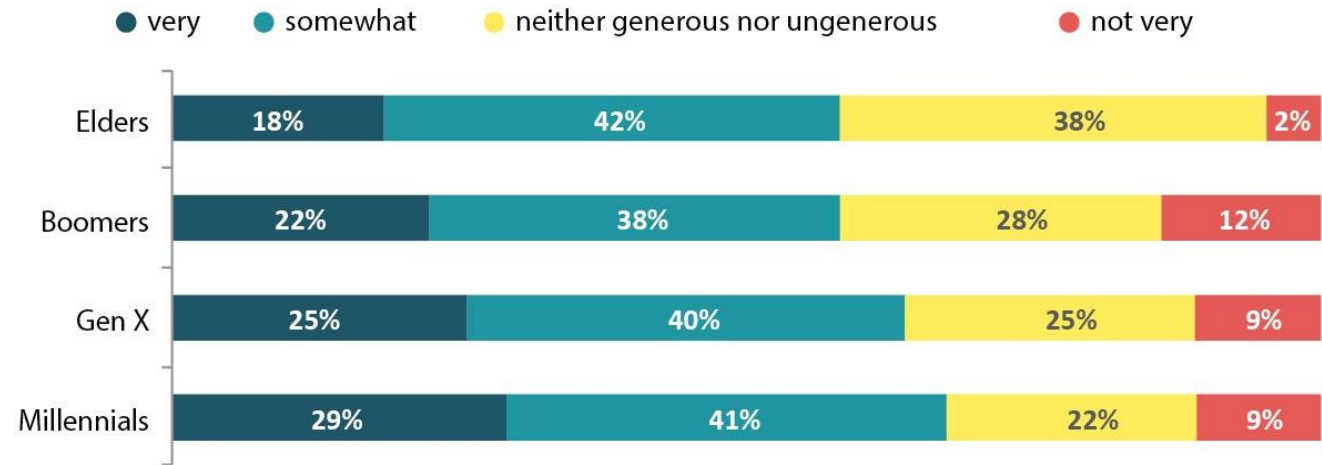
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Viewing
themselves
through the eyes
of a peer...

"If your friends knew
everything about your
finances and giving habits,
how would they rate your
generosity?"

HOW GENEROUS I AM WITH MONEY, BY GENERATION

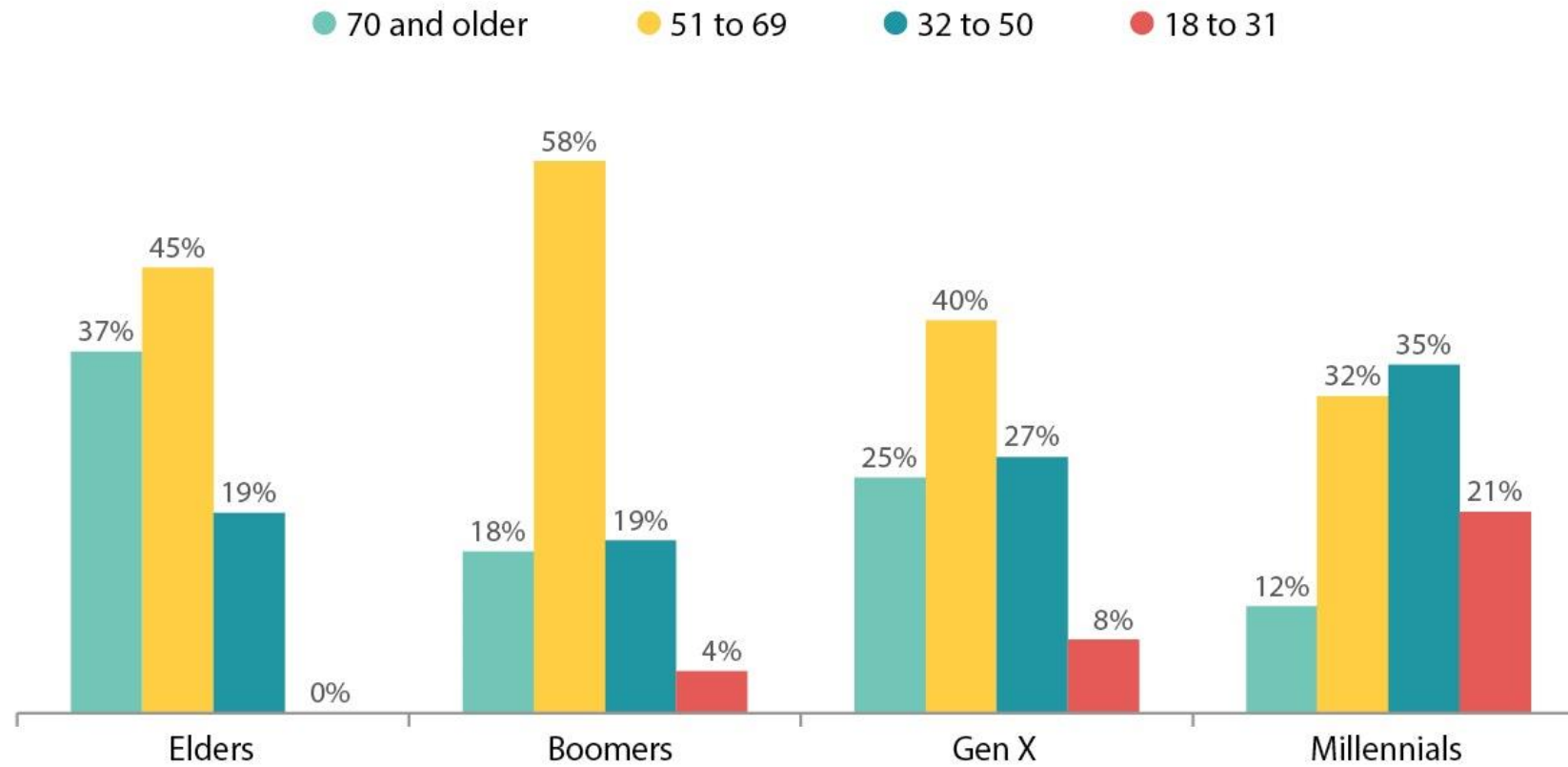
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WHICH GENERATION IN YOUR CHURCH IS MOST HOSPITABLE?

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The Paradox of Generosity

- The first paradox is that it's good for those who practice it: The more you give, the better off you are.
- The second is that despite these benefits, relatively few people are especially generous.
- Generous people grew more, had more fulfilling relationships, and lived with a greater sense of life purpose.

THE PARADOX OF GENEROSITY



GIVING WE RECEIVE, GRASPING WE LOSE

Christian Smith &
Hilary Davidson

What lessens the chance of someone giving?

- Mass consumption and consumerism
- Discomfort by pastors on the subject
- Mistrust of Institutions
- Shyness about discussing the issue with others
- Habit of spontaneous giving

<https://generosityresearch.nd.edu/> and <https://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/2017/november-web-only/volunteering-bright-spot-in-american-giving.html>



The COVID 19 Problem

How can we respond, as Jesus would

- ☐ Prayer and Relationship
- ☐ Service and Sharing
- ☐ Giving Financially

CARA estimates that there are 7.3 million US Catholics who are not "parish-connected". Young adult Catholics, for instance, even highly committed ones, often don't bother to register with a particular parish. Or they may have moved and not moved their registration. Or newly moved to the area? Or only occasional attenders but the experience of the past few months has made them re-consider. And what about the non-Catholics who watched Pope Francis online or had experiences that have opened up new spiritual questions?

Prayer and Relationship

Extend the Online Mass

- Have someone offer the Rosary either before/after Online Mass
- Provide space for prayer this weekend with distributing communion (Virden/CTK)
- Think about providing a reflection on the Eucharist before/after Mass or distribution of communion

Listening Line:

- Be willing to listen
- Compassionate care and resource support
- Connection for the homebound to the outside world

Prayer and Relationship

Digital Connection Cards

- Those of you with online Masses
 - Make intro in the comments, send prayers, send how to connect with the parish
 - Follow up with people who shared, commented, or liked
- Don't recognize someone?
 - Opportunity to introduce, welcome
 - Send along a phone message or card in the mail welcoming them
- One we are back in-person
 - Plan the welcome ahead of time
 - Coordinate an opportunity of welcome, phone call tree, letter, email blast, special prayer group

Service and Sharing

Perfect time to gather witness and sharing stories from your community!

Share the good work of your parishioners!

- Are there any on the frontline?
- How many of them are in the medical field (list for prayers in the bulletin)

Have you coordinated a list of needs from parishioners?

- Consider a post-card mailing- "How are you doing" 3 boxes of options: Please contact me (info), I would like to volunteer to serve, I would like this prayer intentions remembered...
- Have you identified a lead for volunteer coordination when we are re-opened

Giving Financially

Are you preparing to help those who have suffered in the parish?

- Special collections for an emergency assistance fund?
- List of families in need, and resources/donations for those to help?
- Check your events- what can be donated from those? (auctions-gift cards, garage sales)

Has your parish sent a Thank You recently?

Are you making it easy for people to contribute or understand the need?

How will you continue to make it easy for people to contribute or to request help?

A Note on Hospitality

Path of Discovery:

- Pathway with resources for prayer, welcome, remembrance etc., while people are waiting for communion distribution- at a safe distance.
- Create Prayer station location/points of welcome
- In the absence of personal contact- use music, art, stones (remembrance pool) or similar prayer stations that are easy to engage with
- Include Stations of the Cross- with 6 feet of spacing guidelines
- Readings and images of Jesus healing the sick, with the disciples, etc., with a short reflection

Additional Resources

- Magnificat is currently offering complimentary access to its at-home prayer resources <https://us.magnificat.net/free>
- Daily Gospel Reflections from Bishop Barron: <https://dailycatholicgospel.com/sign-up-daily-gospel>
- The University of Notre Dame offers a free virtual course designed to help deepen knowledge of and relationship with Scripture (<https://mcgrath.pathwright.com/library/saint-johns-bible/102496/about/>)
- Daily three minute retreats from Loyola Press for adults ([link](#))
- USCCB “Made for Love” podcast featuring stories of Catholics living out the call to love in their daily lives ([link](#))

And more!

- Liturgy Training Publications free online resources in English and Spanish for prayer and connection in times of crisis, including daily prayers, scriptural reflections and resources reflecting on the Sunday Gospel as a family ([link](#))
- The Boston College School of Theology and Ministry free online recordings of lectures in theology and ministry, along with suggested discussion questions, to use in your adult formation programming ([link](#))
- Documentaries, TV shows, podcasts, and radio segments from Salt and Light Media that highlight stories and issues relevant to the Catholic community in the world today ([link](#))

Serving Communities with Limited Access to Technology

In such situations, you may consider starting a phone tree to ensure that families are supported:

- Choose simple activities a family can do at home (like Scriptural reflection and prayer)
- Assign catechists families to call each week and offer instructions
- Ask catechists to offer to pray with families when they call
- Use programs such as [Google Voice](#) to create a free phone number that works on smartphones and on the web (check out a free Google Voice tutorial video [here](#))
- Another option is to start a private Facebook group to share activity/prayer suggestions (learn how [here](#)). Many families who do not own a computer or tablet may still have access to Facebook via their phones.

Life in the Christian Community

Acts 4: 32-35

The community of believers was of one heart and mind, and no one claimed that any of his possessions was his own, but they had everything in common.

With great power the apostles bore witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great favor was accorded them all.

There was no needy person among them, for those who owned property or houses would sell them, bring the proceeds of the sale, and put them at the feet of the apostles, and they were distributed to each according to need.

Questions and Answers!

