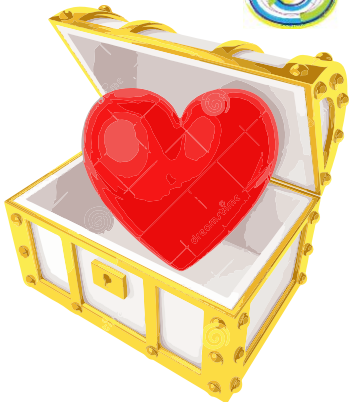


8



**Giving is
Our Lifestyle**

“For where your treasure is,
there your heart will also be”
(Lk 12:34).

Our heart is the part of us that is most hidden and yet most vital. It's the most valuable «treasure» that we have because it gives us the certainty of living today and in the future.

The heart also indicates the center of our values, the root of our concrete choices, the secret place in which the meaning of our life is played out.

What should have the first place in our hearts?

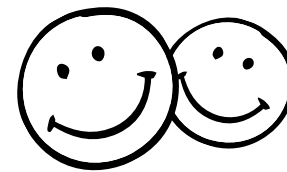


**What is our treasure?
What are we willing to
give up so as to keep it?**



If we look around us, it seems that everything pushes us to accumulate material wealth and concentrate on our own needs...

Why does Jesus insist so much on being detached from our possessions? He even makes it an indispensable condition for following him.



Jesus wants us to be happy. He wants our soul to be free from every attachment and every concern, so that we can **really love him with our whole heart and soul and mind, and with all our strength.**

HE ALSO ASKS US TO GIVE UP OUR MATERIAL GOODS SO THAT WE CAN BE OPEN TO OTHERS.

The simplest way to «give up» is to «give».

CUT AND FOLD

In Action

The Joy of a Gift

Even though we think we don't have anything to give, we have many valuable things to share with others. We can give the affection in our heart or extend hospitality to others. We have joy to share or time to use for others. We have prayers and inner riches to put in common. Sometimes we have books or clothes, a bike or a scooter, or money that we can give.



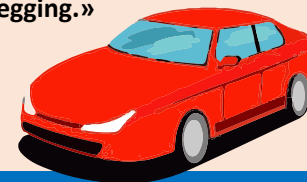
GOD GAVE US THE GOODS OF THE EARTH SO THAT THEY CAN BE USED BY EVERYONE. JUST LIKE PLANTS ABSORB FROM THE EARTH ONLY WHAT THEY NEED TO LIVE, WE TOO WANT TO KEEP FOR OURSELVES ONLY WHAT IS NECESSARY.

Experiences around the World:



In a little village in Congo, Mabe waits for Lionel every day so that she can take him to school with her. Lionel is little and the road is very long and goes through the forest. But one morning, Lionel went ahead with his friends. After school Mabe went to his house and found him crying and without shoes because another boy had stolen them. His mom was very upset with him and said, **«Without shoes, you can't go to school tomorrow!»** Mabe ran back to her house, got a pair of her own shoes, and with her mom's permission, took them to the shoemaker so that he could adjust them to fit Lionel. He did a great job and even shined them nicely. **She took them to Lionel and the next day they went to school together.**

Artur from Argentina was playing in the street with his friends when Pablito came along. He is a very poor boy who stands on the corners and begs. He asked them, "Can I play, too?" All of them looked at his dirty and torn clothes and none of them wanted to play with him! But Artur stopped for a second and then said, **“He's a friend of mine! I'll play with him.»** He took him onto his team and they had a very good time playing together. On Artur's birthday he heard the doorbell ring. He went to open the door and it was – Pablito! **«Here»** he said, handing him a package, **«this is for you.»** Artur opened it and it was a pretty little car. Pablito was very happy and told him, **“I bought it with the money I collected from begging.»**



movimento dei
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