



# Update!

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*Building a Brighter Future at St. John Vianney*  
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The campaign for the renovation of St. John Vianney will be kicking off soon, and as we move forward, you will be asked to consider making a sacrificial gift to the Lord to help finance this wonderful project.

## *What is Sacrificial Giving?*

The starting point for Sacrificial Giving is the basic principle of Christian stewardship—that everything we have is a gift from God. In gratitude for God's generosity, we dedicate a portion of these gifts - time, talent and treasure - to further God's Kingdom. It is about making God's priorities our priorities.

*Sacrificial Giving* is:

- 1) **Planned:** It requires thought and time so we are able to give of the first fruits rather than what is left over.
  - 2) **Proportionate:** Start with an assessment of your level of giving now. Most of us are dismayed to discover how little that is. It is certainly a proportion of your resources but is it truly commensurate to what God has given you?
  - 3) **Sacrificial:** It should come from our substance rather than our abundance. Something of your life has to change in order for you to be able to give a sacrificial gift: maybe you put off buying the new car, and continue to drive your old one, or you decide to give up fancy coffees and fill a thermos with coffee made at home, or you give up going to the movies every week and read a book instead. It is a personal choice that only you can make. Consider the cost of these compared to the amount you donate to the Church!
  - 4) **A Gift of Thanksgiving:** *No gift is truly a gift unless it is given freely without reservation or condition.* The gifts of God are given to us in just such an unconditional manner, and we are called to model our giving after God's. The motive for giving a sacrificial gift is not the expectation of getting something back. It is given freely as God has given to us.
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There is no argument when it comes to giving to God. It all belongs to Him – ALL OF IT – period. (Psalm 24:1) When King David and all his people had given so willingly, generously and sacrificially to build God’s temple, he said to God, “Who am I, and what is my people that we should be able thus to offer willingly? For all things come from you, and of your own have we given you” (1 Chronicles 29:14). David knew what most people today still don’t get: we never give God anything of ours. Everything we have comes from Him.

*Tithing* ISN'T ABOUT *God* NEEDING YOUR  
MONEY, IT'S ABOUT HIM NEEDING  
*first place in your life.*

*Todd Mullins*



In the near future, you will receive a copy of the “Case Statement” or information packet about our planned improvements. Please read it. A fellow parishioner will be contacting you to explain more and ask you to make a pledge over a three year period to help us complete this plan. *What return will you make to the Lord?*

**“Sacrifice, surrender, and suffering are not a popular topic nowadays. Our culture makes us believe that we can have it all ... that with the right technology all pain and problems can be overcome. This is not my attitude toward sacrifice. I know that it is impossible to relieve the world’s suffering unless God’s people are willing to surrender to God, to make sacrifices, and to suffer along with the poor. From the beginning of time, the human heart has felt the need to offer God a sacrifice.”**



*St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta*