



A weekly reflection by members
of the Precious Blood Community

June 18, 2025

Nick Schafer

“God loves a cheerful giver.” (2 Corinthians 9:7)



There are days when the readings at Mass really hit me hard. Today is one of those days. On the surface, I’ve read or heard these words probably a hundred times. Yet today they reach me in new ways. Right here, right now, these words shout to my soul – “STOP, take a breath.” In these readings, we are reminded that our call to follow Christ may (and often will) lead us to do things counter to the prevailing cultural wisdom.

In the first reading (2 Corinthians 9:6-11), Paul calls us to give generously and sow broadly. We are encouraged to share what we have, “without sadness or compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.” The world, by contrast, reminds us to *be smart*.

Conventional wisdom says to save, prepare, take care of yourself first, then people in your immediate circle, then, if there is anything left, it’s nice to help those poor folk you don’t know. That’s not what we are called to do. Christ didn’t hold anything back on the cross. There was no reserve of *precious blood* rationed out for later it was poured out generously for us all.

In the Gospel, Matthew reminds us of Jesus’ instruction to do the right thing with humility. From the very opening lines, He reminds us, “Take care not to perform righteous deeds in order that people may see them; otherwise, you will have no recompense from your heavenly Father...” Today the world says you should take credit for what you do, sometimes going so far as to say you’re a fool if you don’t draw

attention to your deeds. It's not enough to do the good, the world now says we have to talk about it. Add it to your resume, make sure your boss knows for your performance review, take a picture of the nice thing you did so your spouse sees it every year on their Facebook memory, and on and on. The subtle and not-so-subtle brags degrade the original kind or righteous act.

Let's be clear, I'm not sure that Paul in Corinthians, Mathew in the Gospel, or Christ himself is encouraging us to be irresponsible with our resources. I don't think that they would call us to lie or deny what we do in service to others. Rather, all three are reminding Christians to stop, breathe, and keep our priorities straight. Here's how I see it: Are there people in need? If yes, help them. If by helping them, your stores run low (money, food, etc.), have faith that God will provide.

Nick Schafer currently serves as the Director of Mission Advancement at the Precious Blood Ministry of Reconciliation. He is also a graduate of Saint Joseph's College in Rensselaer. To learn more about the Precious Blood Ministry of Reconciliation, [click here](#). To learn about St. Joseph's College, [click here](#).

This weekly reflection is made available to everyone in our Precious Blood family.
Feel free to share it with others. Would you like to write a reflection?
If so, please contact Vicky Otto at votto@pbspiritualityinstitute.org