

Ordinary Time

The Last Ten Percent

Our lives are marked by sacrifice. In many ways, Christian sacrifice is taking ordinary things and making them sacred by offering them to God. But if we only offer God our surplus, then the only things in our lives that get transformed are our “extra” things. The core of our life remains unchanged. We can give God our “first fruits”...our first ten percent. Or we can live extraordinary lives by giving God the last ten percent.

Discussion Questions

1. Describe one time when someone made a sacrifice for you. What was it? Why was it memorable?
 2. What is the role of sacrifice or “giving” in your life? Who do you find yourself making the most sacrifices for? Do you have a special relationship with this person? Do you ever resent the sacrifices you have to make? What do you do with that resentment?
 3. The official Church teaching on giving is found in the precepts of the Catholic Church: “You shall help to provide for the needs of the Church. [This]...means that the faithful are obliged to assist with the material needs of the Church, each according to his own ability.” 10% is not required, but is biblical. What are your thoughts on this precept?
 4. When all is said and done, God wants your whole life...including the last ten percent that one might call “mine”. Knowing yourself, what might be your “last ten percent” this week? What is making you try to hold it back from offering it to Him?
 5. Everything we try keeping for ourselves remains “ordinary”. Only those parts of our lives that are offered to God have the potential to be made holy. What are your thoughts on that truth?
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God in Real Life

1. Continuing to be attentive to Saint Francis de Sales as a guide, continue to “Ask, Offer, and Accept” this week. Be particularly attentive to those moments you are most reluctant to give to God. Those moments might involve your last ten percent.
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To the Heart

“...where your treasure is, there also will your heart be.” (Matthew 6:21)