

Father John Catoir

Christmas Giving

Christmas is the season of giving. It is a magical time when we all have a chance to learn more about the secret of "Divine Supply."

The saints knew about God's nature well enough to take advantage of the fact that He cannot be outdone in generosity. They kept giving and God kept supplying their needs. God will supply you with all the energy and inner joy you need to enable you to accomplish your mission in life; all you have to do is give something away and it will come back to you. He supplies these blessings and spiritual gifts each day according to your own degree of generosity.



There are dozens of stories of holy men and women who opened soup kitchens to feed the hungry. They hadn't a cent to begin with, and years later they still had nothing in the bank, but the soup kitchen was still flourishing every day, year in and year out. Many things will be given to you in proportion to your own giving spirit.

If you need mercy, be merciful. Those who are merciful need never fear Judgment Day for they have received infinite mercy.

If you need material blessings, be a cheerful giver. Those who are generous with their earthly goods in order to help ease the burdens of others will receive from Almighty God abundant gifts.

If you need spiritual blessings, give your heart to the Lord and ask Him to use your joys and sufferings to save souls. All pain is redemptive and you will accomplish untold good.

Believe in the law of "Divine Supply." When you are weary don't give in to discouragement. Smile because of the knowledge of

God's love. The Divine Supply may feel as though it has run out at times, but don't believe it. Your feelings are deceiving you. Resist the temptation to accept such feelings as facts. God is there waiting for you to give something away.

If your life is filled with pain, heartache, sadness, loneliness, or depression, don't be discouraged, think of others. Do something for someone in need. St. Francis de Sales once said, "Never be discouraged because you are discouraged."

Ignore those negative feelings and go right to the heart of the matter. Make an act of faith in God's unlimited supply. Know that your future is secure. Feel the Lord offering you a peace that the world cannot give.

Beyond all your troubles there is always the underlying reality of God's love. He is there for you every moment of your life. Open the door of your heart to His love. Look about you and see what you can do to radiate love and happiness. Give your time, your talents, and your compassion. Give something to someone who needs what only you can give.

The secret of "Divine Supply" is this: Abundant grace will come to you in proportion as you give. The spirit of Christmas comes alive when you open your heart to make others a little happier.

[For a free copy of the Christopher News Note, The Gifts We Give, send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to The Christophers, 12 E. 48th St., New York, N.Y. 10017.]

