

A Child's Sacrifice

A recent study cited in the Chronicle of Philanthropy (August 25, 2010 issue) confirmed what most people already assumed to be true: parents exert a decisive influence on the giving behavior of their children.

The study, conducted by Russ Reid, a Pasadena, California fundraising consulting firm in interviews with 2,000 adults, discovered that beyond household income and education, a far more important element is an adult's practice of giving is the degree to which their parents were involved in charitable causes.

Parental involvement in nonprofits (the Church) increases the odds of a child be-

coming a donor by more than 80 percent; with parents who don't, there's only a 25-percent chance the child will grow up to be a donor, the study found. One of the greatest gifts that parents can give their children is to teach them the vital necessity of good stewardship. We do this by example and



also through simple verbal teaching lessons. Most importantly it is not the priest or the chairperson of the parish stewardship effort that teaches children to give – it is the parents. What giving messages are we imparting to our children?

To give as little as possible? To pay “dues” to the Church? To see what others are doing and give just a little more so that we can satisfy our consciences? To closely

“Train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old, he will not depart from it.”
(Proverbs 22:6)

examine the value of a festival ticket or an after Liturgy luncheon to ascertain if our “gift” is getting a good return?

It’s no secret why evangelicals, Mormons and fundamentalists give so generously: they are taught to do so as children. Give your children an important lesson in life. Teach them generosity. The fruit of generosity is joyful freedom.



A Season of Renewal

As you see, the newsletter has a new format and a new look. Over the summer, Stewardship Advocates reviewed, revised and RENEWED all of its resources, adding many new tools and features to the website and updating the rest.

We invite you to visit the newly-visioned site at www.stewardshipadvocates.org and take a look at the offerings provided there.

In addition to consultant and architect selection assessment tools, you may download all of Stewardship Advocates’ service offering brochures – and, if you wish, a printable copy of this newsletter www.stewardshipadvocates.org/newsletters, which may be freely distributed however you’d like.

Your comments and suggestions on the website are always welcome. Feel free to use the site contact form or, if you prefer a more traditional approach, contact Fr. Anthony by phone, fax or (gasp!) actual postal mail!

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BILLIONAIRES PROMISE TO Donate at Least Half Their Fortunes to Charity

(ABC NEWS, 8/4/10)

At the urging of Bill Gates and Warren Buffett, forty of the world's richest families have promised to give at least half of their fortunes to philanthropy.

By taking the "Giving Pledge," the forty families or individuals, most of whom are billionaires, are promising a collective sum of at least \$125 billion to charitable causes, based on Forbes' current estimates of their net worth and other data sources.

On the whole, Americans have given more than \$300 billion per year in recent years, though giving has declined since the start of the recession, according to the Giving USA Foundation.

"We're hoping that America, which is already the most generous society on Earth, becomes even more generous over time," Buffett told reporters on a conference call today.

"More philanthropy and smarter philanthropy in the future is the goal."



Attention Orthodox Christians bountifully blessed by God!

Does this idea have merit as regards the multitude of worthy charities sponsored and administered by Orthodox Christians to serve a suffering world?

In parish after parish, Stewardship Advocates is establishing endowment programs that often meet with a 25-35% participation rate from the general parish membership in terms of remembering the parish in one's estate plans. (Endowments are built mainly through estate giving because they offer on-going giving in memory of faithful Orthodox Christians who desire to see their Church continue to grow and continue to serve.)

St. John Chrysostom Speaks

Do I possess the house in which I live? No, it is only on loan to me from God while I remain in that place. Do I possess the clothes I wear? No, they are on loan to me until they wear out, or until I give them away to someone in greater need. Do I possess this body that you see before you? No, it was lent to me when I die. Do I possess the mind that is composing the words that I speak? No, that too was lent by God at my birth and will go when I die.



So do I possess anything? Yes, I possess the virtues which during my life I have grown and nourished within my soul. Inasmuch as I have grown in gentleness, I possess gentleness. These things are immortal; they are divine gifts which God will not take away, because he wants heaven itself to be filled with virtue. And, of course, I possess my soul, in which these virtues have their roots.

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