

# American Martyrs

Catholic Community

November 1, 2019

Dear Friends,

I sense that you feel the same way I do. Some days I feel as if God gave me gifts from the top of the barrel, the next I think I got what was left over. God doesn't say only build the Kingdom when you feel overflowing with gifts but also when you experience what seems to be a low point in your sense of being gifted.

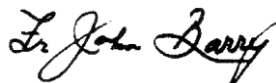
There is no such thing as "take time out" or "you might burn out." *Build the Kingdom!* God is the engineer and the architect who lays out the plan and we are the "laborers" whom God trusts. Keep at it!

Your gift is unique, my gift is unique. I need you, you need me. Unless we build together a kingdom of generosity and love, unless we have our feet sized to the sandals of Christ, we are outside of the Gospel mindset entrusted to us by Jesus. What a gift it is to be called to build the kingdom on Earth, as it is realized in Heaven.

You know how you have used your gifts. I am not privy to reading your time card, your talent profile and certainly not what is on your financial balance sheet. So as you pray to the Holy Spirit, I'd like you to be open to God's guidance as to how you may best respond to God's generous love shown to you.

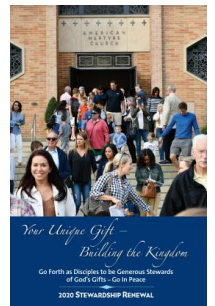
As one who serves among you, I ask you to bless me as I bless you.

May God bless you during these days of renewal.



Father John Barry  
Pastor

Enclosures



*God has generously given us everything. After reflecting on your gifts of Time, Talent and Treasure, please fill out and place your card in the mail or Offertory basket or fill out the Stewardship form on-line via*

[AmericanMartyrs.org](http://AmericanMartyrs.org)

*Call 310-545-5651 to request a reflection card.  
Thank you.*



Stewardship is a concept rooted in the Bible. A stewardship way of life includes recognizing that everything we are and have is gifted to us by God. If we truly believe this, then we become grateful stewards of God's gifts and blessings.

Our earthly mission is to manage wisely and use responsibly all God has placed in our care, as is explained with the Parable of the Talents in the Gospel of Matthew. We are called to be "...good and faithful servant(s). Since you were faithful in small matters, I will give you great responsibilities. Come, share your master's joy." Mt 24:20

Stewardship brings us closer to God and is in line with our parish vision statement, "A welcoming community, helping one another to live holy lives in Jesus Christ." As grateful stewards, each year during this renewal process we commit to using our Time in prayer, our Talent in service, and our Treasure in support of our parish, the poor and other worthy causes.

Please use the next six weeks to reflect on how you will use **Your Unique Gift**, in gratitude, as we continue Christ's work on earth, **Building the Kingdom**.

## FINDING SUPPORT

"Fear not, I will help you." Is 41:13

God has a plan for each of us and it could be that we aren't all called to serve at this time. Maybe before you are called to serve, you need some support to develop your faith and find your place, while you are going through a difficult life experience or just getting settled as a newly registered parishioner. Many parishioners serve to support others through:

- Bereavement
- Separation
- Divorce
- Job Transition
- Parenting
- Belonging
- Faith Exploration
- Fellowship
- Retirement

**?** Where could you use support and how can we reach you?



TIME TO  
*Commit*

*Your Unique Gift –  
Building the Kingdom*

Go Forth as Disciples to be Generous Stewards  
of God's Gifts – Go In Peace

**2020 STEWARDSHIP RENEWAL**

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WAYS TO GIVE



ENVELOPE

Cash or check



ONLINE

AmericanMartyrs.org



TEXT

Text GIVE or  
amount to:  
707-600-2262



MOBILE APP

Elexio  
Community App  
DOMAIN:  
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**AMERICAN MARTYRS CATHOLIC COMMUNITY**

700 15th Street, Manhattan Beach, CA 90266 | 310-545-5651 | AmericanMartyrs.org





# Time

Think of 3 gifts you've been given. Did you receive them recently or years ago? Are these gifts material, experiential, expensive or practical? Is one gift a relationship with someone significant or influential? Which one is your favorite or most important? How do you honor it or take care of it? How did you show your appreciation?

- I appreciate you.
- Thank you!
- Thanks.
- You're my BFF.

Tears, laughter, hugs, a note?

*"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but have eternal life."* Jn 3:16

How are you showing your gratitude to God for this and the many other gifts God has given to us — our very lives, our families, our homes, our faith...? The list can go on and on. We didn't do anything to deserve the gifts God has given to each of us, God was generous with His love.

Prayer is one way we can offer our thanks to God for His generous love. What can you do to improve your prayer life? **As you reflect**, do you attend Mass regularly, will you join a Scripture or LinC Group, pray with family, spend time in the Adoration/Meditation Chapel, listen to spiritual reflections, or go to Reconciliation?

**? How will you offer Community and Individual prayer in gratitude?**



# Talent

*"And he gave some as apostles, others as prophets, others as evangelists, others as pastors and teachers, to equip the holy ones for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of faith and knowledge of the Son of God."* Eph 4:11-13

At American Martyrs, one way we show each other Christ's love is through engagement in parish ministry. In these activities, we serve God through serving one another. Through service, we live out our gratitude by using our God-given gifts and talents, those things that come easily and naturally to us.

**For your reflection**, what gifts and talents have you been given, maybe vocal gifts for speaking or singing; artistic gifts such as cooking, crafting, gardening; playing an instrument, drawing or writing; supportive gifts such as listening and guiding; or others like teaching, organizing, or constructing.

**? What gift(s) or talent(s) are you already using in love to serve others?**

**? If you are not currently serving, what is one gift or talent you will start using to serve others?**

**? Is there a ministry you've been wanting to join? What's holding you back?**



# Treasure

*"Consider this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.... The one who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed and increase the harvest of your righteousness."* 2 Cor 9:6,10

As Christians, we are each called to give back gratefully for the gifts we have been given. In the upcoming year we ask that you pledge a portion of your treasure for use in good causes.

Our parish has been blessed by your contributions and those of many others. We built new facilities to help us welcome and engage our community, we repaired and maintained our existing buildings including our beautiful church tower, and we continue to fund our ministries and tithe to the poor.

Please help us further our parish mission to serve one another and those in need outside our community by:

- ▶ Giving regularly to the Sunday Offertory via online giving or envelopes
- ▶ Giving to special funds, collections and appeals, such as Religious Education, Together in Mission and the upcoming Called to Renew campaign
- ▶ Giving to collections that provide assistance beyond our parish, such as Priest Retirement and Catholic Relief Services
- ▶ Increasing your giving to the Sunday Offertory
- ▶ Tithing 5% to the parish and 5% to other worthy causes

**? How will you give back to God through your contributions to our parish and other causes?**



Your Unique Gift –  
Building the  
Kingdom

## 2020 COMMITMENT CARD

My Offering of Time, Talent & Treasure

↓ First & Last Name

↓ Phone

↓ Email

↓ Spouse First & Last Name (if applicable)

↓ Phone

↓ Email

↓ Address

↓ City

↓ State ↓ ZIP

Please complete and **BRING** this card with you to Mass and place it in the Offertory basket or **MAIL** it in the envelope provided. Thank you and God bless you for all you do for our parish community!

## Finding Support

“Fear not, I will help you.” Is 41:13

**I am interested in:** (select any that apply)

- Bereavement
- Separation
- Divorce
- Job Transition
- Parenting
- Belonging
- Faith Exploration
- Fellowship
- Retirement
- Other

**I wish to discuss finding support.**

The best time to reach me is:

- Morning
- Afternoon
- Evening
- Weekends
- Other



## Stewardship


We are called to be “...good and faithful servant(s). Since you were faithful in small matters, I will give you great responsibilities. Come, share your master’s joy.” Mt 24:20

Stewardship brings us closer to God and is in line with our parish vision statement, “A *welcoming community, helping one another to live holy lives in Jesus Christ.*” As grateful stewards, each year during this renewal process we commit to using our Time in prayer, our Talent in service, and our Treasure in support of our parish, the poor and other worthy causes.

Please use the next six weeks to reflect on how you will use **Your Unique Gift**, in gratitude, as we continue Christ’s work on earth, **Building the Kingdom.**

*Go Forth as Disciples to be  
Generous Stewards  
of God’s Gifts – Go In Peace*

 /AmericanMartyrsCatholicCommunity

 /MsgrJohnBarry  /AmericanMartyrs

 /MsgrJohnBarry  /AmericanMartyrsChurch

**AMERICAN MARTYRS CATHOLIC COMMUNITY**

700 15th Street, Manhattan Beach, CA 90266  
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# Time

Spending Time with God in Prayer

Only when we spend time with God in prayer are we spiritually prepared to offer ourselves in love and service to others.

*“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but have eternal life.”* Jn 3:16

How will you offer Community and Individual Prayer in gratitude?

Community

Individual

Other

**The gift of my time, talent, and treasure is the right size:**

- When I can honestly say that I am offering it in thanksgiving to God.
- When I can truly say I am being honest with God and with self.
- When I no longer feel I am making excuses.

# Talent

Using My Talents to Serve in Love

*“And he gave some as apostles, others as prophets, others as evangelists, others as pastors and teachers, to equip the holy ones for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of faith and knowledge of the Son of God.”* Eph 4:11-13

What gift(s) are you already using in love to serve others?

If you are not currently serving, what is one gift or talent you will start using to serve others?

Is there a ministry you’ve been wanting to join? What’s holding you back?

# Treasure

Making a Consistent Gift to the Offertory

*“The one who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed and increase the harvest of your righteousness.”* 2 Cor 9:6,10

In thanksgiving for God’s gifts, please consider giving a specific percentage of your income based on the biblical tithe:

**5% to American Martyrs**  
**5% to other charities**

My Offertory pledge to American Martyrs

Weekly gift \$  × 52 = \$  annually





or

Monthly gift \$  × 12 = \$  annually

or

Annual gift \$

How will you give back to God through your contributions to our parish and other causes?

WAYS TO GIVE				
	ENVELOPE	ONLINE	TEXT	MOBILE APP
	Cash or check	AmericanMartyrs.org	Text GIVE or amount to: 707-600-2262	Ellexio Community App <small>DOMAIN:</small> AmericanMartyrs