

A couple of weeks ago, a young girl came out after mass and asked: "How do you like my new dress?" "It's lovely. You look so beautiful in it." Smiling with great pride she beamed and related: "I got it for my birthday!" The young girl knows her dress is a gift. She freely shares the joy of her gift with anyone who will listen.

In the Gospel we heard about the man who is faithful to the commandments, but hoards his possessions. What's happening? I wonder if it was a loss of perspective.

The commandments were God's. The man knew they came from God. They were a gift. He faithfully followed them.

He viewed his possessions as his----not God's, not coming from God. He did not see himself as entrusted with wonderful blessings. So he wanted to hold onto his possessions. He did not let go. He could not share. He could not give. This loss of perspective caused him great grief.

It is the nature of God to give. We receive. We respond.

We share our time, talent and treasure

For the good of others

For the benefit of the local and global community

For the improvement of our environment

To alleviate human suffering

To enrich our world

To bring about justice and peace.....all because God blesses each and every one of us.

This week be mindful of the blessings we are receiving from God. Give thanks for them. Reflect upon the gifts that we might be holding onto or hoarding.. See if we can take one step in releasing our gifts and blessings....in sharing them....in giving them away. It might be a possession.....our time....a smile. It might be a compliment...or expressing appreciation.....or caring for the health & well-being of another. It might be listening... being patient.... forgiving.

My sisters and brothers, the gift we receive, give as a gift!