

In today's first reading, we hear the after effects of the story of David and Goliath. All of Israel is rejoicing and praising King Saul and David the shepherd for the defeat of the Philistines. Yet King Saul is not happy. He becomes jealous of David because the people were singing more for David than for him - or at least that is how Saul saw it.

How often do we dampen our own joy by treating life as some sort of contest or competition? How often do we deny ourselves happiness by thinking we need to one-up someone else? The grass always seems greener ... Keeping up with the Joneses.

Elsewhere in Scripture, St. Paul calls us to "rejoice with those who rejoice, [and] weep with those who weep."

Part of our own generosity of spirit is in sharing our lives with those around us, living our life in community, and letting go of our own desire or our own need to be the center of attention ... or on the top of the heap. Sometimes sharing means dropping our own attitude, and embracing someone else's needs or desires for a while.

Saint Ignatius of Loyola has a prayer for generosity - not in the limited way that we think of, namely financial generosity.

Prayer for Generosity (*St. Ignatius of Loyola*)

Lord, teach me to be generous.
Teach me to serve you as you deserve;
to give and not to count the cost,
to fight and not to heed the wounds,
to toil and not to seek for rest,
to labor and not to ask for reward,
save that of knowing that I do your will.

May we find our joy and happiness in the situations where God has called us - that is, where we find ourselves today. Instead of asking "how much" and setting limits on our hearts, let us pray to imitate God's limitless and infinite generosity ... and in our own lives, let us show forth God's manifold blessings in how we live out His will for us in our daily work.