

The penitential seasons of Advent & Lent are a beautiful time to reflect on: **The 3 Pillars of Prayer, Fasting, and Almsgiving.**

-They all go together / They're Interconnected / Fasting and Almsgiving are connected to Prayer.

Read St. Luke's Gospel (11:39-41) on Tithing and Almsgiving:

-“Oh you Pharisees...” Believe it or not; Almsgiving, when done joyfully, can cleanse and renew our hearts (i.e., the interior).

-I think we forget how powerful it is when we give generously back to the Lord. Almsgiving is connected to the Spiritual Law of “Self-Gift.”

*-Anthony DeStafano Book: The 10 Prayers God Always says yes to...”*

*-Ch. 3: What's in it for me?*

*-The prayer...”God, Outdo Me in Generosity.” / Watch-out”*

-I guarantee when you pray that prayer; do not be surprised at the response of God / When we begin to give with our hearts, It is amazing the Graces that will flow back.

-During this BAA (Bishops Annual Appeal) please remember, if you have the resources to give financially, and/or pray for the success of the BAA / The more we become a Self-Gift, and give back to God and His Holy Church (locally the Diocese of Raleigh), the more we are conformed to His image and likeness. It renews us, transforms us, and cleanses us Spiritually.

-And that is how Almsgiving becomes a powerful form of prayer.

-May our BAA gift become a deeper form of prayer that renews and cleanses us from the inside, as we support our neighbor & Diocese.

To hear this message: link to (2:27 min. video) that I did for the Diocese in 2021: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DjoBCjl3-K4>

Locally the BAA impacts us via Vocations, Education, Catholic Catechesis and in the Sacramental Life of IOP. And locally partnering with Catholic Charities and our own Outreach Resource Center, we aid those struggling financially or, at the present time, unemployed.

For a specific breakdown for the BAA: See the graph below. Remember that these Diocesan Programs and aid may be limited and/or do not happen if the Diocese does not make the goal. This graph can also be found on the last page of this week's IOP bulletin.

IOP Goal is \$121,00041. We are currently at \$41,233 (~34%)

God Bless your generosity!  
Father Vic Gournas

