

## **The joy of sweat equity**

Have you noticed that it's easier to perform a home improvement task for a friend's or family member's home than it is for your own home?

Even mowing the lawn! At home, it's a chore. But when I do it for someone else, it's ... it's like a gift I'm giving them. And *giving* reaps rewards! It makes us feel happy. (Unless I forget to take my hayfever pill; then I'm not so happy.)

I have a family member who, almost every time my wife and I come to visit, has a short list of tasks for me. Although she is very adept at home improvement projects, there are certain heavy-lifting type jobs that she can't do. For this she requires a large-muscled, construction-adept, can-do guy. And if she can't find one, she calls me.

I don't mind at all. In fact, I find more joy in helping her, and others, than in doing my own household improvements--which are piling up.

What is it about doing something for someone else that is so much more rewarding?

I think that we find enhanced joy in helping others--heightened satisfaction in a job well done and happiness in knowing we offered help to someone who otherwise would have none.

And this is why it is more rewarding to give time and effort than to give money.

Don't you agree? Money is anonymous. Money is ... well, it's kind of ugly! It can gnaw at us. Money is not easy to let go of, and being asked to do so can be annoying.

With financial donations, we don't see the result of our gift, of our sacrifice. We can't see the fence we built. Or the plumbing we fixed. We don't break into a sweat when we offer monetary donations. Where's the joy in it?

Yet, if you could see the rewards that your donation to our diocesan Appeal was bringing to countless others in our diocese, I can promise you you'd be rewarded with those same feelings of joy and satisfaction that you would have felt had you actually gone to their homes and completed a complicated work project.

In this case, your help is not resulting in a mown lawn, but far more importantly, you are offering a ray of help and hope to those who are in need of something far more important.

Yes, money is anonymous. But by donating money to this important appeal, you are indeed volunteering--*you are volunteering the time and effort that you put into earning that money.*

Come to think of it, giving from the wallet and giving a bit of sweat equity ... well, perhaps they're not so different after all!

As we reach the half-way point of our Vibrant Ministries -- Uniting Our Church Appeal, please "volunteer" your efforts by generously donating funds that you worked so hard to earn.