

We've all heard good words from our diocesan Catholic Charities appeal. And we'll have a second collection for Catholic Charities, right after the first collection. And you'll find joy in the giving.

Jesus says: I want you to be happy the way I'm happy. Here's how: Love others. If you do that, the joy I feel, you'll feel too. You are my friends if you do what I command you.

And I reply: But Jesus, that sounds so conditional. You're my friend only if I do what you command?

And Jesus replies: That's not what I said. Listen carefully. I will always be your friend. Under any condition, in any circumstances I will remain a friend to you. But the way you show yourself a friend to me, or not, is if you keep the commandment to love others. If you love others, you will live in friendship with me, and experience so much joy my joy will be dwelling in you, and your joy will be complete.