



## EoC The Inspiration

### Culture of Giving

In the **Economy of Communion**, the producers – entrepreneurs, workers, and their business associates - are inspired by principles rooted in a culture different than what prevails in today's practice and theory of economics. We can define this "culture" as a "**culture of giving**" which really is the antithesis of a "**culture of having**".

Giving economic assistance can express a self-giving rooted in our very being. In other words, it can reveal an anthropological view that is neither individualistic nor collective but rather is communion.



A **culture of giving** is not some form of philanthropy or welfare - these are individualistic virtues.

In a deeper sense, the very essence of a person is "communion."

Consequently, not every type of giving, not every act of giving creates a culture of giving.

For example, there is a "**giving**" which is contaminated by the desire to have power over another person and that seeks to dominate or oppress individuals and populations. This only appears to be "**giving**".

There is a "**giving**" that seeks satisfaction and self-gratification from the act of giving. In essence, this is an egoistic self-expression and usually is perceived by those who receive it as offensive and humiliating.

There is a "**giving**" that is self-interested, or utilitarian, found in some of the current neo-liberal tendencies that always seek their own advantage.

And finally, there is the "**giving**" that Christians find in the gospels.

In this **giving**, the giver opens up to the other person and remains respectful of his or her dignity. It generates an experience of the words in the gospel "**give and it will be given to you**" even for the managers of a business. These words from the gospel might manifest themselves to the businessperson in the form of a financial windfall, or in the unexpected discovery of an innovative technical solution, or as an idea for a new winning product.