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Loving your neighbor

By Elise L. Moore, C.S.B.

Today is the deadline for filing tax returns in the United States. I know I spent hours carefully reviewing my revenue and expenses to make sure the information was authentic and accurate. What's the motive for filing tax information accurately, besides a legal obligation? The motive for me is Jesus' command to love my neighbor as myself. Giving part of my income to build and repair roads, to educate children and my grandchildren, to provide safe equipment for soldiers and pay for their salaries, this is all loving my neighbor, as well as myself. My little bit of tax money is loving neighbors I may never meet or know, but I'm uniting with every other person in the United States to love one another as God loves us. And honestly, I think that's why our tax system works. There is a genuine love for one another, a desire to lift each other up, to protect one another from harm and we are willing to contribute a little money to help others as well as ourselves. So wherever you are and in whatever country you live, let's love our neighbors today, and think of our tax contributions as evidence of that divine Love in action.