

Good morning. My name is Sue Everson-Rose.

Turn. Learn. Pray. Worship. Bless. Go. Rest.

These are the 7 practices we are talking about as the way of love, the way of Jesus, illuminating our way forward as we live into God's purpose for ourselves and for the world.

We give to St. John's because, for over 11 years, this has been the place that embodies these 7 practices for me and for my family, Roger, Davis and Maclain.

We give to St. John's because this community helped make Minnesota "home" for us when we moved here from Illinois.

[Reflect on roles we have played and programs we have benefitted from.]

We give to St. John's because we believe in its mission, stated so clearly and eloquently in the first sentence of the Mission Statement: "We celebrate the gift of Christian community and welcome all, without distinction, to share in the joy and pain of life's passages." The inclusiveness, openness, and welcoming nature of this sentence never ceases to take my breath away.

It also reminds me of a George Washington Carver quote my mom kept on our fridge when I was growing up:

"Resolve to be tender with the young, compassionate with the aged, sympathetic with the striving, and tolerant of the weak and the wrong. Sometime in life you will have been all of these."

As we move through the seasons and passages of our lives, we feel honored to be part of this community that has love at its core and shows us how to live fully, love deeply, and share generously.

For these reasons, and many more, we are choosing to increase our pledge to St. John's by 20 percent for 2020.

Plus 20 in 20 - has a nice ring to it.

Won't you join us?

Thank you