

AN ISLAND LESSON

By Bill Pugh

We were volunteers at a children's home in Fiji just after one of the coups. It was a time of unrest and unemployment.

Children in the home, left for a variety of reasons, needed lots of love and special care. It was a privilege to support wonderful and dedicated staff.

Before returning to Australia we decided to have a week on one of those luxury islands.

On the Sunday we wanted to go to church. There wasn't one there, but a lovely Fijian staff member invited us to go to her church on a nearby island.

So we did, by boat. We were the only non-Fijians. We recognised many of the resort staff who lived there with their families.

It was a wonderful service with magnificent singing. When it came to the offering, two lines formed and people gave their collection.

One line, we learned, was for the church and the other to support the many unemployed people.

Most gave to both. For us it was a salutary lesson on stewardship. Like the widow, those who had less gave much.

Reflection:

*Dearest Lord, teach me to be generous, Teach me to serve you as you deserve,
To gain and not to count the cost, To fight and not to heed the wounds,
To toil and not to seek for rest, To labour and not to ask for reward,
Save that of knowing I am doing your will.*

St Ignatius Loyola

www.victas.uca.org.au/resources | Photo by Janis Rozenfelds | October 2021

Bequest

Remember the Church in your will.

A bequest will help continue to work of the Church long after you're gone. There are many ways a bequest can help the work of the Church - whether for a specific cause that's dear to your heart, for a specific congregation or for the general purposes of the life of the Church.

Want to know more?

Speak to your solicitor or financial advisor, or visit the Synod's website:

www.victas.uca.org.au