

*The important thing is to give with a thankful heart.*

we cried, Mom and Dad embraced us. Mom said, "Bob and Mary Ann, it's okay. We are going to have a wonderful Thanksgiving." We continued to cry, "But they hurt the baby and threw away our food!"

Mom said, "The children tricked us. That wasn't a baby; it was a doll. They didn't want food; they wanted money.

Nevertheless, you are going to learn a very important lesson today." When we quieted down, Mom spoke words that made an indelible impression on us. She said, "We gave the children a wonderful gift today, sharing a big part of our Thanksgiving meal with them. This was a wonderful gift, even though they did not accept

it. The important thing is that we gave with a thankful heart."

Mom continued, "God did that long ago, when he gave us the greatest gift—his own Son. Just as the children rejected our gift today some people rejected Jesus too. Some continue to reject him today by lying, cheating, or hurting one another. But God keeps on giving, and Jesus is the greatest gift we could receive. Let's remember God's gift and all our gifts today as we go in and have a wonderful Thanksgiving meal together."

This attitude of thankfulness is our fundamental perspective as Christians. It is our first prayer, the acknowledgment of our total dependency on God, and our acceptance of the great love which God desires to share with us.

● ● ● *For Reflection* ● ● ●

What great gifts is God offering you in your life? How do you express your thanks for these gifts?