## CONTENTS

Acknowledgments					
Pro	Prologue: What Is a Christian Gift? Map				
Ma					
Гіп	ïmeline				
	Introduction	1			
	Surviving Sources and Historical Discourses	5			
	Philanthropy and Asceticism as Complementary Virtues	9			
1.	The Present-Giving World of Early Byzantium	11			
	Christian Gifts in the Late Roman Holy Land	11			
	Secular Gifts and the Late Roman Imperial Order	19			
	Providential Order and the Rise of a Religious Aristocracy	26			
	The Christian Ideal of Stewardship	32			
2.	"Give to All Who Ask of You": The Challenge of Early Byzantine				
	Philanthropy	35			
	The Classical Roots of Christian Philanthropia	39			
	Christian Philanthropy before Constantine	43			
	Constantine and the Extension of Christian Philanthropy	48			
	Preaching Philanthropy in Christian Cappadocia	51			
	"To Each According to Need": Philanthropic Priorities in Church Institutions	59			
	"To Each According to Rank": Philanthropic Priorities in Sixth-Century Monasteries	65			

3.	"Bend Your Heart to Mercy": Almsgiving and the Christian Advocacy of Social Compassion	<i>7</i> 1		
	Preaching Direct Almsgiving in Christian Antioch	76		
	The Monastic Middle Way of Communal Ministrations	82		
	Monastic Mediation between the Rich, the Clergy, and the Poor	89		
4.	"Give It with Your Whole Soul": From Alms to Charity in			
	Early Byzantine Monasticism	97		
	Defining Charity in Egyptian Desert Tradition	101		
	Gifts of Charity in the Seridos Monastery	106		
	Sins of Excess and Redemptive Almsgiving	113		
	Almsgiving as Purification in Eastern Hagiography	119		
	"Give as Your Alms from the Things Within": Alms, Charity, and Christian Altruism	122		
5.	"What God Has Put in Your Heart to Give": Divine Patronage, Sacred			
	Wealth, and Material Blessings	127		
	The Pauline Concept of a Christian Blessing	130		
	The Institutional and Lay Provision of Material Blessings	134		
	Human Avarice and Divine Patronage	141		
	Converting Lay Offerings into Blessings	146		
	Ascetic Stewardship and the Multiplication of Monastic Blessings	149		
	Gifts of a Sacred Order	153		
	Sacred Wealth and Monastic Culture	156		
6.	"You Are the Firstfruits of the World": Monasticism, Fruitbearings, and Prosperity in the Countryside	160		
	Agrarian and Monastic Expansion on the Rural Margins	166		
	A Syrian Village Perspective: The Letter of Cosmas of Panîr	171		
	Agriculture and Religious Science in the Roman Near East	174		
	The Intercessory Powers of Symeon Stylites the Elder	177		
	Ascetic Penance and Lay Prosperity in the Lives of Barsauma and Theodore	183		
	Fruitbearings, Gratitude, and Sacred Vessels	187		
7.	"Imperishable Remembrance in Heaven and Earth": Liturgical			
,.	Offerings and the Rise of Patronal Monasteries	192		
	Lay Offerings and Church Commemorations	197		
	Church Apologetics for Commemorative Rites	201		
	Jacob of Serug's On the Loaf for the Departed	203		
	Patronal Praise and the Proliferation of Private Monasteries	209		

Monks, Freedmen, and the Perennial Quest for Perpetual Commemoration	216
Memory, Salvation, and the Economics of Monastic Patronage	222
Epilogue: When Holy Men Walked the Earth	229
Notes	239
Bibliography	319
Index	389