

The Tithe

The tithe is the gift of 10 percent of what we have or earn, given to honour God. Counted in the tithe are all our gifts to the poor as well as our offering in our place of worship. Catholic school tuition is not counted in the tithe (sorry). Tithing is established as the consistent standard for worship-giving throughout the Bible beginning in Genesis. In the context of his worship, Abraham gives the priest, King Melchizedek, a tenth of what he has. It is the king's share and a sacrificial offering (Genesis 14:18-20). Later we learn this is how his son Jacob worshiped too:

The Jacob [said], If God will be with me and will watch over me, then the Lord will be my God and this stone that I have set up as a pillar will be God's house, and of all that you give me I will give you a tenth.

(Genesis 28:20-22)

Many Catholics hear "tithing" and freak out, "Isn't that an Old Testament concept that Jesus abolished?" Or, they conceive of it as something that Protestants do, and something that we've somehow outgrown.

.....Continued next week

Taken from, *Rebuilt*, by Fr. Michael White and Tom Corcoran