

The Tithe

Tithing is imperative if we are to open ourselves and our parishes to the blessings promised in Malachi. It is a teaching that must be retrieved and relearned if we are truly shaping consumer Catholics into disciples, and if parishes are to be revived and genuinely rebuilt in a way that conforms more closely to the Gospel.

As a way of moving forward and continuing the dialogue, we encourage people to honour the biblical standard on which the tithe is based. We challenge members to become:

- ➔ Planned givers (designating money in their budget to give)
- ➔ Priority givers (giving to God first before other expenses)
- ➔ Percentage givers (giving a percentage, not a dollar amount)
- ➔ Progressive givers (increasing the percentage regularly).

If you are just throwing pocket change into the basket on Sunday (some people call it “tipping” God), plan your gift instead; make it a priority as you budget your other expenses. Percentage giving comes next and it brings the key change in thinking. Initially, it is not about the 10 in 10 percent, it is about a *percent*. We have become convinced that percentage giving is *the* major cultural shift in getting our parish on the right track.

.....continued next week.

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