
MAKE CHURCH MATTER 23 August 2015

The Tithe

Worship is the act of giving value to something. It is what God wants from us, and God himself has taught us how to do it. Repeatedly he admonishes: “No one shall appear before me empty-handed (Exodus 23:15)

From the beginning of the Church, every gift to the Church and everything given to the poor was understood as gifts to God, as an “offering” to the Lord. In the first few centuries, as the liturgy began to take shape, these gifts of Christian charity became associated with the ritual preparation of the gifts of the Eucharistic sacrifice. In this way the faithful could place their offering with the Lord's.

Today, we make an offering in the middle of Mass; we give money in our place of worship as an act of worship. It doesn't cost us *everything*, as did Jesus' offering, but it should cost us *something*.

King David, who knew more about worship than anybody else before him, insisted that his worship cost him something significant and sacrificial (2 Samuel 24:24). Same for us—worship must cost us something.

But, on the other hand, it's also an investment. The wisest thing we can do with our money is to fund the work of God's kingdom. It is obviously the best long-term investment strategy there is.

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