

The McKenna Tithing Newsletter

The Gerry McKenna Tithing Program is a grass-roots ministry - conducted and administered by laymen and women - for the purpose of sharing the joy and peace of mind that accompanies the ancient practice of tithing.

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THE CHEERFUL GIVERS

PARISHIONERS' COMMENTS...

"I have always believed in tithing and I'm glad to see the parishioners responding to this program. I have found that tithing has worked in my life in the blessings that I have received."

D.F.G.

Rev. Frederick F. Schaefer
St. Brigid's, Westbury, NY

"My seventeen-year old daughter came home from Mass on Sunday morning and announced to the family that she was going to tithe. A high school senior with a part-time job, she's willing to make a sacrificial offering!"

A Parent

Msgr. Joseph F. Loret
Assumption, Roselle Park, NJ

"God gave us the whole thing! One hundred per cent! When you stop and think about it, what's the big deal about giving him back five per cent? But, yes, you do have to stop and think about it."

A Parishioner

Msgr. Carl D. Hinrichson
Most Blessed Sacrament, Franklin Lakes, NJ

"For your good judgement and courage in your attempt to get and keep our parish in good financial shape, I heartily commend you. A commonsense tithing program is working very, very well and consistently elsewhere. It will do as much and more for us."

J.A.G.

Rev. Frederick F. Schaefer
St. Brigid's, Westbury, NY

"God gave to us...we try and give to God."

Anonymous

Rev. Frederick F. Schaefer
St. Brigid's, Westbury, NY

"It was not a directive from the Church hierarchy - not an exhortation to give more. These people were husbands and fathers, just like me, and they were juggling budgets and problems. And there they were, telling us how good it felt to acknowledge one's dependence on God!"

A Parishioner

Msgr. Carl D. Hinrichson
Most Blessed Sacrament, Franklin Lakes, NJ

THE CHEERFUL GIVERS

PARISHIONERS' COMMENTS...

"We knew that there were needs to be met outside the boundaries of our home and these gnawed at our consciences. So tithing gives us the opportunity to fulfill our responsibilities to God, our family, our Church, and our community regularly."

Parishioner **Rev. Richard G. Rento**
St. Brendan's, Clifton, NJ

"Hooray for tithing! Now we can give up the 'three B's' - bingo, bizaars, and boosters."

Anonymous **Msgr. John H. Dericks**
Assumption, Morristown, NJ

"A couple of years ago I wouldn't have given it a second thought. But now at this point in my life it makes a lot of sense."

"I thought the discussion with my husband would last longer than it did before we decided to do it."

Parishioner-**Msgr. Walter J. Niebrzydowski**
St. John the Martyr, New York, NY

"I'm not sure we should be looking for answers as direct effects of tithing. We certainly don't expect a privileged life just because we tithe. We have continued to live comfortably. What we thought was going to be a big dent in our budget has, in reality, been easily incorporated."

Parishioner **Rev. Richard G. Rento**
St. Brendan's, Clifton, NJ

"We needed the spiritual jolt we got from the guest speakers who told us so eloquently of tithing. Perhaps we have come full circle, back to the Old Testament, but with renewed faith, hope and love for our community."

P.F.M. **Rev. Frank B. Ferraioli**
St. Christopher, Parsippany, NJ

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PASTORS' COMMENTS...

"Sometimes good people forget that inflation doesn't stop at the doors of the church...I imagine some of our parishioners will be happy come this April 15th, Income Tax Day, when they find they will have to pay less to internal revenue because they gave more to eternal revenue"

The late **Msgr. Francis J. Blake**
Holy Family, Nutley, NJ

"Last Sunday a little boy handed me an envelope. When I opened it I saw that it contained two dollars in loose change. For me that said it all."

Msgr. Francis R. Seymour
Guardian Angel, Allendale, NJ

"People are giving for the right reasons. It's totally on their own. We don't ask them to sign pledge cards. We see the results when we see odd figures are calculated to the penny on the collection envelope."

Rev. Edward J. Kiernan
St. Andrew the Apostle, Brooklyn, NY

"This is an issue that affects the people's whole approach to life. Their children are educated by their parents' faith. One man said, 'I'm amazed. I haven't missed anything I've given. My needs are different.'"

Rev. Philip D. Morris
Our Lady of Sorrows, So. Orange, NJ

"Tithing is 'the wave of the future' despite it's being around since Abraham."

Msgr. Martin P. Bannon
St. Ephrem, Brooklyn, NY

"After the 10:30 Mass, one of our parishioners came up to me and said that the presentation on tithing was the answer to what she'd been praying for in the past two weeks. She wanted to do more for God and our parish and believed that sacrificial giving was what she'd been asking for in prayer."

Msgr. Joseph F. Loreti, V.F.
Assumption, Roselle Park, NJ

BISHOPS' COMMENTS...

(In interviews several years ago, Archbishop Peter Gerety, now Archbishop Emeritus of Newark, and Bishop Frank Rodimer of the Paterson Diocese, indicated approval.)

"People respond to a good, clear, specific goal. Tithing taps an instinctive Christian impulse to charity already in the faithful. For the witnesses, it is a true work of love."

Archbishop Peter L. Gerety

"Yes, I would recommend it [tithing] to all Bishops; it frees the Bishop to be a pastor to his people -not just an administrator."

Bishop Frank J. Rodimer

"...Quite candidly, our dependence on gambling is evidence that we have not done a very good job teaching our people what the church really is -- a community of faith over which the risen Lord presides. Supporting that community by giving to it a certain portion of one's resources is a spiritual religious act. No one is expected to give beyond his or her means. Generally, however, the means needed to support the church are present in this diocese. If they are not shared with the Lord, it is not so much a lack of means as it is a lack of understanding and motivation."

"I am convinced that we should inaugurate a program of tithing or sacrificial giving. Such a program flows from

Scripture itself. It takes a spiritual approach and appeals directly to the individual conscience. Such giving is infinitely more than mere fund raising; it is a spiritual, religious act."

Joseph Cardinal Bernardin

DID YOU KNOW?...

* The Gerry McKenna Tithing Program is spreading. Already flourishing in well over 250 parishes in fifteen dioceses. The states are:

Arizona	New York
Connecticut	North Carolina
Florida	Pennsylvania
Maryland	Rhode Island
New Jersey	Virginia

* An article about our program was picked up by the National Catholic News Service. It made the front page in the Dubuque (Iowa) WITNESS, and even went as far as the HAWAII CATHOLIC HERALD!

* Former speakers who have moved from the area have taken the program with them. Art Wojtowicz, one of the original speakers, is now watching it grow in Arizona.

* St. Bonaventure parish in Jamaica, NY began tithing ten years ago with a presentation given by the Rev. Dr. Wyatt Tee Walker, pastor of the Cannon Baptist Church in Harlem.

* Father John B. Brady, pastor, St. John Vianney, Prince Frederick, MD says a prayer after receiving the collection basket and the offertory gifts.

While holding the basket high over his head, he prays: "Receive the gifts of your people, Lord, the fruit of their labors upon this earth. They return this portion of your gifts to them, so that the work of your Son might continue upon this earth."

DID YOU KNOW?... (Continued)

* Many tithing parishes have begun a "tithing the tithe" program. They are -as a parish -contributing 10 per cent of their income to a parish in need or to worthy individuals whose needs are brought to their attention.

THE OTHER FIVE PERCENT...

(The following is from the PASTOR'S DESK section of the Nov. 23, 1986 issue of the bulletin of the Church of the Guardian Angel in Allendale, NJ. The pastor is Msgr. Francis R. Seymour)

"All of us owe a special debt of gratitude to the people of St. Charles Borromeo Parish, Newark, Yes, that's right, we owe them our gratitude!

"You see, all of us here at Guardian Angel Parish, Allendale, were in need. We were in need of showing our gratitude to God for the many blessings and gifts He has given us. Many of us were not sure as to how we could thank God.

"Then along came the emergency appeal we made two weeks ago for Thanksgiving dinners for the people of our sister parish at St. Charles. We told you that an anonymous parishioner of ours had made an arrangement with the local A&P to provide a full turkey dinner with all the trimmings for \$17.00.

"We would have been happy if 50 people had responded and we probably would have been ecstatic if the number reached 100!

"However, there are no words to describe the unbounded joy welling up within us when we were able to provide dinners for 230 families. The response was so overwhelmingly generous that we were able to add a few extras to the dinner we had planned and there was still money left over from that. This extra money has been given to Father Hank, Pastor of St. Charles Church, to help other needs he faces such as assisting parishioners with their rent.

"This appeal has been the talk of our parish like nothing else in the four years I have been here. The good feeling and sense of accomplishment experienced by so many is simply joyous. Families have told me how their very young children contributed to this appeal. Parishioners have donated substantial amounts from their businesses.

"All in all, what impressed me more than the large amount of money that was raised in just a few days was that if we had kept at the original cost of the dinner, i.e., \$17.00, we could say that we had a response that averages out to one from each family in our parish. That truly is one family helping another.

"This parish has been blessed with many gifts and many talents, but the greatest gift of all is the willingness to thank God for those gifts and share them with those who are less fortunate. That's why we are grateful to the people of St. Charles Parish for giving us the opportunity to thank God through them.

"St. Paul said it so well and so simply two thousand years ago: 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'"

(Ed. Note: Isn't that a lovely story? And an equally fine example of a loving "pat on the back"?)

Please send your stories...from parishioners, or priests, or we're even interested in stories from Bishops, as you can see. Do please share the inspiring feelings that you've had or heard about since you first encountered "God's Plan for Giving"...We're growing. Be part of the growth!