

Parishioners' comments

(These comments were written on cards and placed in collection baskets. They were then printed in their respective church bulletins and/or sent to us for inclusion in our newsletter.)

"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, Most Blessed Sacrament, Franklin Lakes, NJ

(Editor's note: Witnesses were all male in the program's early days. Today, about a third are women.)

"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, Assumption Parish, Roselle Park, NJ

"For your good judgment 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."

A parishioner, St. Brigid's, Westbury, NY

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

A parishioner, Assumption, Morristown, NJ

"Should have had it a long time ago! Keep up the good work, Father!"

A parishioner, St. Philip the Apostle, Camp Springs, MD

"How can anyone put into words what God does for one? The peace...in times of stress is an example. The month's money of one who has a fixed income and yet it seems to go further. God is so subtle. I don't hear bells, fireworks or drums; still my prayers are answered. Don't try to outdo God! He will not allow it. He comes back with more help than before."

A parishioner, Holy Cross Church, Bronx

Parishioners' comments (continued)

"I tithe out of a deep-down conviction that it's the correct, Scriptural thing to do. I give without expecting anything in return. But it's amazing what God can do when you take Him as your partner. I'm a lot happier than way back when I used to give grudgingly, tight-fistedly, or sometimes not at all."

A parishioner, St. Augustine, Ossining, NY

"I was amazed to see the success of St. Anne's tithing program. It is heartening to see St. Anne's blossom into new life..."

A local pastor (sent to Rev. J. Gallagher, OFM, Cap., St. Anne's, Manchester, NH)

"I think tithing was just what St. Andrew's needed. It also made me aware of my obligation to my church. I hope it continues to be a positive move for the church."

A parishioner, St. Andrew's, Sag Harbor, NY

"The parish gives to me, my husband and children, and my community. The parish offers me a community of worship and prayer, and financially I want to help it continue to operate. Also, my parish gives to the sick, poor and others, and I want to be a part of that."

A parishioner, St. Marguerite Bourgeoys, Brookfield, CT

"The talks on tithing did cause me to re-evaluate my contributions to my parish. It is difficult, but I am certain that what we give to God we receive back from Him in blessings."

A parishioner, Immaculate Conception, Tuckahoe, NY

"I think we took a giant step forward when we decided to tithe. Let us earnestly continue."

A parishioner, St. Peter Claver, St. Inigoes, MD

"I take this opportunity to thank you for the tactful way in which you presented the Tithing Program. I am proud that it is proving successful at Santa Maria. I personally find it spiritually rewarding."

A parishioner, Santa Maria, Bronx, NY