WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO “TITHE YOUR FIRST FRUITS”?  
(EXPLAINING THE 8% TO PARISH AND 2% TO CHARITIES WHICH PROMOTE THE COMMON GOOD THROUGH CATHOLIC VALUES)

Stewardship Office Hours ♦ June 28, 2023
OPENING PRAYER

Christ Jesus,
Help us to imitate your example:
healing the sick,
welcoming the stranger,
assisting the poor and vulnerable.
May the sacraments remind us
of your love and self-giving,
which we strive to imitate.
Amen.
WHAT DOES “TITHE” MEAN?

Dictionary

Definitions from Oxford Languages · Learn more

**tithe**

*noun*

one *tenth* of annual produce or earnings, formerly taken as a tax for the support of the Church and clergy.

*verb*

pay or give as a tithe.

"he tithes 10 percent of his income to the church"

**FUN FACT:** Tithe literally means tenth in Hebrew.
THE BIBLICAL CONCEPT OF THE TITHE

Rooted in **Sacred Scripture**

Melchizedek, king of Salem,* brought out bread and wine. He was a priest of God Most High.

He blessed Abram with these words:

“Blessed be Abram by God Most High, the creator of heaven and earth; And blessed be God Most High, who delivered your foes into your hand.”

Then Abram gave him a tenth of everything.

*Genesis 14:18-20*
THE BIBLICAL CONCEPT OF THE TITHE

Rooted in Sacred Scripture

“Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, you hypocrites. You pay tithes of mint and dill and cummin and have neglected the weightier things of the law: judgment and mercy and fidelity. [But] these you should have done, without neglecting the others.

Matthew 23:23
THE BIBLICAL CONCEPT OF THE TITHE

First Fruits

We have agreed to bring each year to the house of the LORD the first fruits of our fields and of our fruit trees, of every kind; also, as is prescribed in the law, to bring to the house of our God, to the priests who serve in the house of our God, the firstborn of our children and our animals, including the firstborn of our flocks and herds.

Nehemiah 10:36-37
3 TIER TITHE-BASED DIOCESAN STRUCTURE

- Faithful are asked to tithe to the parish.
  - Goal is 8% to the parish & 2% to other charities.
    - Remember that this is the goal & ideal...not a mandate.
  - The parish tithes 10% of its operational income to the diocese.
- The diocese tithes to support the work of the universal Church out of its operational income.
SACRIFICIAL GIVING

He sat down opposite the treasury and observed how the crowd put money into the treasury. Many rich people put in large sums.

A poor widow also came and put in two small coins worth a few cents.

Calling his disciples to himself, he said to them, “Amen, I say to you, this poor widow put in more than all the other contributors to the treasury.

For they have all contributed from their surplus wealth, but she, from her poverty, has contributed all she had, her whole livelihood.”

Mark 12: 41-44
UNDERSTANDING THE OLD TITHING MODEL

Old Way

Given to the Diocese by Parish
- Cathedraticum
- Christmas Assessment
- Easter Assessment
- Universal Collections

Faithful give to the Diocese directly
- CSA
UNDERSTANDING THE NEW TITHING MODEL

New Way

**Given to the Diocese by Parish**
- Christmas Assessment
- 10% of Ordinary Receipts

**Faithful give directly to the Parish**
- 8% (or whatever % is their personal sacrificial gift) – the other 2% goes to charities of their choice that promote the common good through Catholic values
- What they would have given to CSA
- What they would have given to Universal Collections
QUESTIONS/COMMENTS
Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse,
That there may be food in my house.
Put me to the test, says the LORD of hosts,
And see if I do not open the floodgates of heaven
for you,
and pour down upon you blessing without
measure!

Malachi 3:10
QUESTIONS??

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