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St. Pius X Parish

While I've known about tithing since at least my high school days, which my children are quick to remind me is when dinosaurs walked the earth, I'd never thought to take it seriously until St. Pius became a tithing parish back in November 2014. My initial reaction to even the suggestion of giving 10% of my income to the Church was less than charitable. But the very next month my wife told me she was leaving, and tithing became the least of my financial concerns.

The fact that I am standing here in front of you today obviously suggests I got past my initial reluctance about tithing. And I did - slowly over the last 5 years I've increased my giving to St. Pius, and now it's four times what it was in November 2014. Which may sound like a lot, but frankly speaks more to how cheap I was then than how generous I am now. And I now contribute monthly to the ABC Women's Center and have just started contributing monthly to Bishop Barron's on-line Word on Fire Ministry.

So, what changed?

Here's the funny thing: I'm not altogether sure. While going through the worst period of my life, when I was alternating between begging God for help to get through and lambasting God for all that was happening, I somehow began to appreciate how ridiculously fortunate I still was. My prayer life began to allow for the possibility of praying for "enough" – just "enough" – and while praying for others I could honestly tell God that he had to be at least as good to others as He was towards me and that as far as I was concerned He had some work to do. I think God's answer was that I had some work to do, too.

In a few minutes we'll be praying the Prayer of the Faithful, reminding God that He has some work to do. After that comes the offertory, when we acknowledge to God that we have some work to do, too. The offertory is about much, much more than money, and so is tithing. But for today, please consider the financial aspect of tithing while being open to the spiritual promptings of the Holy Spirit.

Thanks.