

Walt Medina
St. Pius X Parish

Good afternoon. My name is Walt Medina, many of you might know me as one of the Ushers here at our 12 o'clock mass. I've been a member of this church for close to 21-years. I went through RCIA here and was confirmed a few years ago and it was one of the best experiences of my life. To be officially initiated into the Catholic church and to acknowledge my belief in God and His son Jesus Christ has been a blessing.

I first heard about tithing many years ago as a young boy, not really understanding the full significance of it, but just knowing it was something believers did as a way of giving back to the church. As I grew older - I came to learn more about tithing through stories in the bible. Specifically the one where Abraham (Abram) returning from war returns a "tenth" of his possessions in recognition of his blessings. As I continued my journey into adulthood I wasn't much of a church goer, in fact I was distanced from my faith and Catholic upbringing for many years.

Fast forward 30-years or so - I came to St. Pius and it's here that I've established my roots and have grown spiritually. In the process, giving-back has been a part of the journey. Including, giving of my time, volunteering as an usher or in the soup kitchen and of course tithing. I believe as Christians we have a call-to-action and that action involves giving, it involves participation, it involves some sacrifice of your time and resources. It's in tithing that we put God first on our priority list. My belief as a Christian has made me understand the simple fact that everything belongs to God, he is the giver and provider of all things. Everything belongs to him. Giving back to God a "tithe" or small portion of what he gives you is nothing in comparison to the life he is giving you.

I'm reminded of a simple story – ***“There was once a Father, a very wealthy man, who decided to take his young son, out to lunch at McDonald’s. The father tells the son to order whatever he wants. The son orders a happy meal with extra large fries. As they sit down to enjoy their lunch the father decides to take a few of the fries he bought his son. The son becomes annoyed & angry and says to his father “NO” these are my fries you can’t have any. The father is taken aback – thinking to himself – doesn’t he know that I bought him the fries and that I can buy him all the fries in the world. I simply want him to share. The father was saddened and hurt because his son did not want to share his fries”.***

Brothers and Sisters isn't that how we are with our money? We get annoyed/angry and we simply don't want to share. As Christians we must be prepared to share – to give. Give what you can and give it cheerfully - for the bible says ***“God loves a cheerful giver”***. It's interesting to me that the only place in the bible that God says to test him, is in giving. (Mal. 3:10-12)

My friends everything is temporary. As the old saying goes ***“You can't take it with you”***. In the words of one of my favorite Hollywood actors Denzel Washington, and I quote: ***“You will never see a u-haul behind a hearse”***.

So what does this all mean to me? I can honestly say that tithing has strengthened my faith and relationship with God. It's made me realize that giving of my time, my resources, and especially my tithes is only a small way of saying “thank you God”, thank you for your blessings and for my life. I am honored and humbled to be a Christian and to know that we have a God that provides for our every need. I urge everyone of you to consider tithing as a way-of-life in your spiritual journey.

My brothers and sisters, give what you can, give from the heart, give generously, give cheerfully, and always remember to ...“share your fries”.