

DEPARTMENT OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Carole A. Buleza, Director



August 10, 2008

Dear Pastors and Church School Directors,

With another Church School year beginning, we offer you I pray that the Holy Spirit is inspiring you with joy, even as you perform all the tasks and chores that accompany the beginning of the church school year. The children have no idea of all that is involved with the passing on of the faith! Know that we at the Department of Christian Education greatly appreciate your dedication!

LOOK what's new! We have put all the materials for the tithing program on the enclosed disk! They are also at the website, www.antiochian.org/tithing2008. The Table of Contents for the disk is on the following page. (The term "printer's spreads" provides the material for printing on 11 x 17" paper, bound in the center.)

The 2008 program is presented by use of a booklet for each level, K-1, 2-3, 4-5, MS, and HS. Please note a few new features:

- **Booklets:** there are 12 pages per booklet
- **Page Changes:** the pages are designed for a 10-minute lesson as well as a 40 minute lesson. The Teacher Notes offer two lesson plans.
- **Print-on-Demand:** we are investigating the cost of offering materials by "print-on-demand," which would enable you to order posters and booklets in color, and have them shipped to you. Please contact the office if you are interested in more information.
- **Posters:** there are the four saints' posters, and new "Definitions" posters, with the grade-level noted at the bottom left.

Enclosed in this mailing are the following:

- **Disk with all materials**
- **Table of Contents**
- **Posters, 1 set**

If you have administered this program previously, you already know what is contained in these introductory notes, and may proceed to viewing the disk, and or the website to begin your preparations.

Spiritual Maturity. The tithing program is so much more than "just asking for money." It is "Following the Saints to God," a beautifully-presented stepping stone to spiritual maturity. The children will learn about the qualities of thankfulness, stewardship, trust, and dedication to God, by way of brief narratives on the lives of four saints, and puzzles. We are grateful to Mr. Timm Wenger for producing an excellent program! The students are to bring their envelopes to church *every Sunday* and either empty them into the classroom *donation box* in the classroom, or into the *collection basket* during Divine Liturgy.

Staff Members

*V. Reverend George Alberts
Diocese of the East
Diocese of New York and
Washington, DC*

*Robert Snyder
Diocese of Toledo
and the Midwest*

*Mr. Joseph Tershay
Diocese of Los Angeles
and the West*

*Kb. Linda Funk
Diocese of Eagle River,
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Diocese of Ottawa and
Upstate New York*

*Mrs. Vasiliki Oldziej
Diocese of Wichita and
Mid-America*

*Kb. Anna Timko-Hughes
Diocese of Worcester and
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*Kb. Betty Randolph
Diocese of Miami and
the Southeast*

*Kb. Leslee Abud
Associate*

*Kb. Gail Meena
Associate*

*Ms. Catherine Sullivan
Associate*

*Mrs. Sandy Mitchell
Associate*

If you haven't already, please view the Department's website for the page: "Priest's Resource Site: Tithing," created to assist in the education of adults. Materials include bookmarks, a 15-part bulletin insert series from St. Elias of Atlanta, articles by Mr. John Truslow of that parish, Mr. Ron Nicola, Chair of the Department of Stewardship.

Your Fellow-Worker in Christ,

Carole A. Buleza
Director



Priest's Resource Site: Tithing

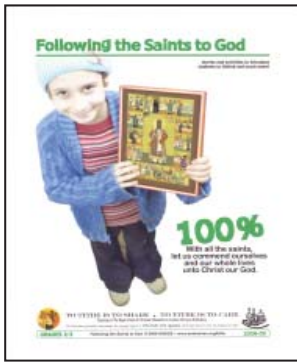
With the permission of Mr. Ronald Nicola, and Mr. John Truslow, in September our website began to build a page called, "Priest's Resource Site: Tithing," to assist priests in helping the faithful fully understand giving, and tithing, as a witness of their dedication to God.

With the permission of Fr. Michael Evans, I have reviewed and edited a fifteen-part bulletin insert series, "*Pledging to Give in Stewardship*," written by Mr. John Truslow and used at St. Elias, Atlanta (provided for you in Microsoft Word).

"Pledging to Give in Stewardship," Bulletin Series Titles

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1 Pledging to Give in Stewardship I | 9 What is an Offering? |
| 2 Pledging to Give in Stewardship II | 10 Offering Your Tax Break |
| 3 "For Those Who Would Give, God Will Provide" | 11 Prayer, Fasting and Giving |
| 4 Expectations of Our Parish | 12 Pledging Opportunities |
| 5 The History of Stewardship | 13 Answers to Quizlet |
| 6 Tithes and Offerings | 14 Knowledge, Practice and a Bibliography |
| 7 With Tithing as the Goal | 15 Give and Grow Closer to Him |
| 8 Frequently Asked Questions about Tithing | |

I have also gathered articles from the last several years from *The Word* magazine written by Mr. Truslow and by Mr. Ronald Nicola. I pray these efforts will lead to children and adults to the realization that, "*Where your treasure is, there your heart is also.*" (Luke 12:34).



Church School Director Preparation Worksheet/Checklist

1. **ASSISTANCE.** *Who will help you?* _____.

2. **PRELIMINARY DECISIONS WITH PASTOR.**
 - a. *When will the program begin?* _____.
 - b. *How will the tithes be given at your parish, in class or during Divine Liturgy?*
 - c. Look at the parent letter. *Will you use the Parent Letter as is, or will you compose your own?*
 - d. *Do you want to have a teacher meeting before beginning the program? When?*
 - e. *When will you organize each class' tithing package--booklets, posters, envelopes?* _____.

3. **PRINTING DECISIONS.** For best quality output, download all items from the website to be reproduced (so that you are printing from originals).
 - a. **Teacher Notes.** Print out one per class.
 - b. **“How I served God” strips.** Print out one per class. The student fills in the blank with one way he or she served God that week (helping, sharing, being kind, obeying Mom and Dad, etc.). These are to be treated the same as a donation.
 - b. **Booklets.** Review the booklets; the level designation is on the bottom left.

How many of each do you need?

Gr K-1 _____

Gr 2-3 _____

Gr 4-5 _____

Gr MS _____

Gr HS _____
 - c. **Logo stickers.** Obtain Avery address labels # 5160 or a less expensive corresponding store label that measures 1” x 2 5/8”; you will need at least one for every child. A logo sticker template is provided.
 - d. **Posters.** See next page for details. *How many poster sets will you need?*
 - e. *Will you produce the above materials, or have a copy store do so?*
 - f. *How much lead time do you, or they, require?* _____.

4. **TITHING ENVELOPES.** Purchase enough envelopes for the children. Have them seal the envelope and then cut open one end so that it can fold down to hold the money. The logo sticker goes on the envelope, along with the child’s name. After the child empties the tithe, the envelope is to be retained by the child, and reused.



*Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese
of North America, Metropolitan PHILIP, Primate*

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September 2008

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Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

In 2004, Metropolitan PHILIP mandated that tithing should be taught in the church school, so that each generation will learn to care for the Church Christ entrusted to us. *Tithing is returning ten percent of all we earn or receive, to God.* The 2008 version of "To Tithe is to Care, To Tithe is To Share," is titled, "Following the Saints to God. As in previous years, the children will learn the qualities of **thankfulness, dedication to God, trust, and stewardship**, through the lives of *Saints Anna and Joachim, Saint Raphael of Brooklyn, Saint Innocent of Alaska, and Saints Emmelia and Basil*. Most of these saints were married, and chosen to reinforce the Creative Festivals theme of 2007. Each month the students will complete a page of their tithing booklet.

The children will also make **tithing envelopes**, using the tithing logo stickers. The envelopes will be brought home. They should be used like a church "piggy bank--" as soon as they receive their allowance, or gift money, they are to place a portion in their envelope. The older children should know how to determine a tithe, the younger ones will need help. The children are not "giving up" some of their money, but rather, "returning" a portion to God from whom we receive all that we have. It is suggested that the child's envelope be placed at the icon corner in the home, to impress on the child that caring for the church is a holy act.

The students are to bring their envelopes to church **every Sunday** and either empty them into the donation box in the classroom, or into the collection basket during Divine Liturgy. The envelope is to be retained by the child, and reused.

God never asks of us anything that is not for our good, and so it is with tithing. The decision to tithe is the decision to place God **FIRST** in our lives--to trust, to be a good steward, to be thankful--all leading us closer to the Kingdom.

May God bless you and your children,

Carole A. Buleza

Director

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This week I served God by . . .



This week I served God by . . .



This week I served God by . . .



This week I served God by . . .



This week I served God by . . .



This week I served God by . . .



This week I served God by . . .
