



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

DEPARTMENT OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Carole A. Buleza, Director

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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

105 Leader Heights Road, Suite 130, York, PA 17403
Phone (717) 747-5221 FAX (717) 747-5832 E-mail: AODCE@aol.com