



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

DEPARTMENT OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Carole A. Buleza, Director

August 20, 2008

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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.

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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

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| 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).