

Pledging to Give in Stewardship

We continue to consider **pledging** (promising) **to give** (to transfer in love for free) **in stewardship** (as those who manage value in trust for the true owner).

Article #10

Offering Your Tax Break

As good stewards, let us talk about taxes and giving. In North America, giving to legitimate charitable groups, such as our parishes, is a “tax-favored” activity to encourage such organizations. Although sacrificial giving is motivated mostly by “...the desire to experience the joy in making the gift,” good stewards do not ignore the tax implications of giving because they enable them to give more!

Offering Your Tax Break. If you are in a combined (Federal plus State) effective income tax bracket of 20%, and have a household income of \$50,000, your tithe to the parish is \$5,000. Most probably, you are deducting this gift of \$5,000 from your income *before* you calculate your income taxes, and are thus excused from paying the \$1,000 tax that would have been due on the \$5,000. The parish gets \$5,000, and you have to pay \$1,000 less in taxes.

What should you do with the “saved” \$1,000? The Antiochian Archdiocese has established long-term financial plans for the ministry of three key departments.

- The Christian Education Endowment,
- The Missions and Evangelism Endowment, and
- The Youth Ministry Endowment.

Why not perpetuate the good work being done in these areas with the \$1,000 you saved on your income tax? For more information, go to www.antiochian.org/development.

There are also pan-Orthodox charities and organizations in need of contributions, The Orthodox Christian Education Commission (OCEC), International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC), and the Orthodox Christian Mission Center (OCMC).

Maximize your tithe and offering, as a steward of the Lord.

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