

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 15

Give and Grow Closer to Him

Pledging is a great opportunity to act “for real” for Christ and His Church, and this year each of us and each household among us has **this opportunity not once but twice: by pledging to give in stewardship to support the parish budget, and for the new Center.**

What is “pledging?” Pledging is an act of solemn or formal promise to Christ and His Church (that’s all of us, by God’s grace) that you will, with God’s help, give the money you have pledged. This is, of course, depending on stable economic circumstances in your life. If they change for the good, say you strike oil in your backyard, you increase your pledge. If they change for the worse, say you lose your job, you decrease your pledge. There are two points to remember, individually, and together as a community living in Christ’s love and discipline.

First, no one is going to “hold your feet to the flames” if disaster strikes and you honestly cannot make good on your pledge because you do not even have the wherewithal to feed yourself and your family. So, relax! The basic promise here is to God Almighty Who knows the “real deal” and Who still loves us all. Pledging is no elaborate scheme to “trap you.” Lord, have mercy!

Second, this *is* serious stuff and must be taken that way. One line item in our budget, freely translated, is “Feed Father.” When you sign your name on your form: “I, _____, pledge to the budget _____,” keep in mind that Father tends to get a little cranky, if we do not feed him and his family. Likewise, on the building pledge, we are planning to provide the good workmen with pay so they can feed their families as well. Budgeting is essential!

So, pray about your pledges as: “You have *voluntarily vowed* to the Lord your God, what you have promised” (Deuteronomy 23:23); and thank God for each opportunity to give and grow closer to Him!

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