

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 7

With Tithing as the Goal

One of the most clear biblical teachings about tithing comes with a promise. It is Malachi 3:8-10, written about 400 years before Christ.

*Return to Me, and I will return to you, says the Lord of hosts. But you said "In what way shall we return? Will a man rob God?" Yet, you have robbed Me! But you say, "In what way have we robbed You?" In tithes and offerings. You are cursed with a curse, for you have robbed Me, even this whole nation. **Bring all the tithes into the storehouse [today's parish general fund],** that there may be food in My house, and prove Me now in this, says the Lord of hosts, if I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you such blessing that there will not be room enough to receive it.*

Our By-laws, Art. IX, "Voting Members," says that one is a "member in good standing" or "voting member" if one (who is **not yet tithing**) is "**moving toward tithing**" and **committed to a definite plan** to achieve that as one of the spiritual disciplines.

Below is a chart showing three households on their way to tithing by adding 2% per year for 5 years.

<i>Percent of income to give each plan year</i>	<i>1st Year 2% →</i>	<i>2nd Year 4% →</i>	<i>3rd Year 6% →</i>	<i>4th Year 8% →</i>	<i>5th Year 10% You made it!</i>
Household #1, income of \$25,000	\$500	\$1,000	\$1,500	\$2,000	\$2,500 = a tithe
Household #2, income of \$50,000	\$1,000	\$2,000	\$3,000	\$4,000	\$5,000 = a tithe
Household #3, income of \$100,000	\$2,000	\$4,000	\$6,000	\$8,000	\$10,000 = a tithe

God knows your income--He gives it to you! The rich and the poor, when they tithe, are equally obedient to God. If your income = zero, your tithe = zero and you are tithing, too! ☺

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