



THE SANCTUS

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TRACT CORNER

“SOME THOUGHTS ON TITHING”

With “Stewardship Sunday” nearing, this explanation of Tithing will hopefully be good food for thought :

+ The Meaning of Stewardship

The word “stewardship” is often used in church, but it is less frequent that we think of ourselves as being responsible for the care and use of resources that belong to God. Consequently, talk about giving in church can become an exercise in attempting to extract money from reluctant givers. The church aids and abets this faulty view when it resorts to guilt and gimmicks in stewardship campaigns. If Jesus is Lord in any meaningful sense of the word, then he is Lord of all that we have. What we do with our money is necessarily a matter of faith.

+The Biblical Pattern for Giving

The world views money as something to pursue and accumulate in order to get and do more things. The assumption of the world is that having more things will make us happier. From the perspective of the world, giving to God is what we do after we have satisfied our needs and wants.

The Bible reverses the priorities. The rule in Israel was that the first part of all the increase belonged to God. Leviticus says, “All the tithe of the land, whether of the seed of the land or of the fruit of the trees, is the Lord’s ; it is holy to the Lord” (27:30). Tithe means “tenth”. Israel tithed by measuring out one tenth of all the grain and giving it back to God. In Exodus God says, “Consecrate to me all the first-born; whatever is the first to open the womb among the people of Israel, both of man and of beast, is mine” (13:3 – see also Leviticus 27:32 for the tithe of the flock).

The story of Cain and Abel in Genesis 4:3-7, the story of Melchizedek in Genesis 14:14-20 and the story of Jacob in Genesis 28:22 confirm the principle that the first and best, the tithe, belongs to God. This standard of giving was assumed in the New Testament. Jesus, as a

pious Jew, tithed. While Jesus criticized the motives of the scribes and Pharisees, he commended their meticulous practice of tithing (Matthew 23:23).

The people of Israel were also instructed to be generous to the needy (Deuteronomy 15:7, 8, 11). They were told not to harvest their entire field, and not to pick up what fell to the ground. They were to leave some fruit on the vine, on the tree and on the ground for the poor to eat.

These priorities match the *Summary of the Law*. Jesus said that the two great commandments are to “love God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind” and “to love your neighbor as yourself” (Matthew 22:36-40). God’s people are to honor God with the first part of their income, the tithe, and are to be generous to those who are in need.

+Tithing and Covetousness

Tithing is part of the answer to covetousness, which the New Testament explicitly links with idolatry (Ephesians 5:5; Colossians 3:5). To be an Idolater is to worship the creation rather than the creator (Romans 1:25). Psalm 24 says, “The earth is the Lord’s and all that is therein.” However, in the Original Sin, man said of the creation, “It is mine.” Giving the first part back to God is the symbolic way we acknowledge God’s ownership of all that we have. It is the way we undo the Original Sin and say to God, “This is yours.”

Tithing helps to detach us from our money. One company CEO said in a Forbes Magazine article, “When I began to tithe, I found a freedom from my possessions. I don’t hold on to things as tightly anymore.” (*Irrational Act*, Rich Karlgaard, Forbes.com, 02.14.05). As Jesus said, “Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also” (Matthew 6:21).

+The Blessing Promised for Faithful Giving

One problem we have with the practice of tithing and generosity is that today’s culture teaches us that one

person's gain must lead to another's loss. Thus, if I give ten dollars to someone in need, he is richer and I am poorer.

The Bible teaches that generous giving enriches both the giver and the recipient. There are numerous Bible passages that make this point:

Proverbs says,
"Honor the Lord with your possessions, and with the first-fruits of all your increase; So your barns will be filled with plenty, And your vats will overflow with new wine."
(3:9)

In Malachi, God says,
"Bring all the tithes into the storehouse ... And try 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."
(3:10)

In 2 Corinthians we are told,
"He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully." (9:6)

Jesus said,
"Give, and it will be given to you; good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For the measure you give will be the measure you get back." (Luke 6:38)

+The Evidence in the Lives of the Faithful

The evidence for these promises is found in the lives of those who have made tithing and generosity part of their practice of the faith. There is a well-known story of a man who began to tithe from the proceeds of his business and gradually increased his giving over time. God so blessed his giving that he came to the point where he was able to give away ninety percent and keep ten.

There are also stories of people whose faithful stewardship led to a different kind of blessing. One man began to tithe from the proceeds of his business, which subsequently went broke. He was asked, "Did you lose everything?" He replied, "No. I still have all the money I gave away."

God does not promise us a particular outcome for our faithfulness in giving. Rather, he says, "I will never leave you nor forsake you" (Hebrews 13:5). Because God always rewards our faithfulness in ways that more than compensate for what we have given, we will always be better off for having been faithful stewards.

+The Tithe as an Act of Faith

The biggest barrier to the practice of tithing is fear. We are afraid that if we give the first part to God we won't have enough left for the needs and wants of life. This is why tithing is an act of faith. We have to give to God first and trust that he will be faithful to his promises. As Hebrews says, "Without faith it is impossible to please

[God], for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek him" (Hebrews 11:6).

(*With "Stewardship Sunday" nearing, this explanation of Tithing will hopefully be good food for thought. ...This tract on Tithing is available in the church narthex, along with many other religious tracts.)

SENIOR WARDEN'S REPORT

With the drought conditions continuing in our area, maintaining our newly landscaped property is a major concern. The lawn sections must be fully watered twice a week, with the trees, evergreens and bushes heavily soaked every weekend. All this takes many hours, and thanks to Carol O'Sullivan, Bob Wilson, Phil Ross and Dan Brush, we are managing well.

The new storage shed is complete and will be painted as weather permits. Donated by the Anglican Church Men from their treasury (\$700), the shed was erected by: Donnie Marini, Bob Oschman, Don Otton, Bob Wilson, Will Spencer and Paul Drayton. Thanks to Bob Oschman, our lawn mowers have been serviced for next year.

We will work with the Bolingbrook FISH Program to provide Thanksgiving baskets to needy families. Marie Spencer is handling this effort and needs the support of the parish to make this as successful as last year. Please give your donations to Marie, Father Hines or place your checks in the plate on Sunday morning, payable to All Saints Church, marked "Thanksgiving Baskets".

Please note that the ACW and ACM will meet on Sunday, November 6, and we will celebrate All Saints Day on November 13 with a Salad Luncheon hosted by the ACW. Also, mark your calendar for the Parish Christmas Party, Saturday, December 3, at the Longinows; the ACW Cookie Walk on Sunday, December 11; and the Parish Annual Meeting on Sunday, January 22.

The Development Committee is in the process of contacting the Chambers of Commerce within a 15-mile radius of the church to determine the availability of lists of newcomers to the area and what services are available to help us to make All Saints better known. The Committee is also looking into how local cable television stations can be utilized for publicity.

We are grateful to Fabi and Dan Brush who have accepted the leadership of the Anglican Church Youth program. The basic plans are outlined in an article in this issue of the newsletter.

There is still a great deal to do to have our property, inside and out, where we want it to be. How fortunate we are for those who do so much to achieve our goals.

Bill Jepson
Senior Warden

TREASURER'S REPORT

As we enter the final two months of 2005, I ask that all those who made a pledge to please review that pledge to insure it will be fulfilled by the end of the year. Pledges make up approximately 87 percent of the total income. As you can see, if we are to meet our goal of a balanced budget we need 100 percent of the pledged amount. If you have questions about your pledge contact me at church or at home (630-393-0896).

Bob Wilson
Treasurer

VESTRY OPENINGS

If you would like to be considered as a candidate to fill an upcoming Vestry vacancy, please speak with Father Hines or Senior Warden, Bill Jepson. A parish Vestry plays a major role in the church's business matters and calls for a great deal of responsibility from all its members.

ANGLICAN CHURCH YOUTH

Because our youth are some of our most precious gifts from God, and because our congregation is growing, we find it opportune to reach out to them at this time. In turn, we hope to use their gifts and talents, to the glory of God, to reach out to the community around us.

Father Hines, Lita Petersons, and Dan and Fabi Brush have, therefore, begun to organize and plan for a school year of activities for our youth. Upon publication of this newsletter, a meeting will have been held for our youth on Wednesday, October 26, at the Brush home, to offer some guidelines and ideas for them to consider. Our goal is to be guides and mentors, and to allow them to choose their own destinies according to what they believe the Lord would have them do for His Kingdom. We will encourage them to choose a name for themselves, to come up with a "code of brotherhood and honor" to follow, and to select a varied set of activities to pursue, both for their edification and service to God.

We are very excited to be of service to our youth and pray we will all be useful tools to our Lord, as well.

Fabienne Brush
Youth Leader

ANGLICAN CHURCH WOMEN

Our ACW had a special luncheon meeting on Saturday, October 15. Everyone brought a sandwich and enjoyed a delicious tomato barley soup prepared by Sue Stines. Father Hines anointed our hands in preparation for our work on the Angel Comfort Wraps. This casual meeting gave us an opportunity for fellowship and discussion of various ACW projects. All the ladies seemed to think this was an enjoyable and beneficial way to get together. The next Saturday meeting will be held in February.

We will celebrate All Saints Day on Sunday, November 13. Our ACW will host a Salad Luncheon in the Undercroft after Mass, and we are asking everyone to bring a dish to pass. Please join us for good food and fellowship. There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex.

The Cookie Walk will be held on Sunday, December 11. This is the only fundraising activity the ACW has had this year, and we are hoping for everyone's support. Last year the cookies were not only delicious, but beautiful. This is a wonderful way to have a lovely assortment of cookies during the holidays without baking a lot of varieties yourself. Please see Jane Munsie's article with details about our Cookie Walk.

Our next meeting will be Sunday, November 6. Because of the Cookie Walk, we will not meet during December. Our annual meeting and election of officers will be held on Sunday, January 8, 2006. We have a terrific slate of officers, and I want to thank them for volunteering to fill these offices: President, Sue Stines; Vice President, Jane Munsie; Secretary, Chris Oschman; and Treasurer, Marcia Wilson.

Watch for your invitation to the Parish Christmas Party at Lilli and Andy Longinow's on Saturday, December 3, and look for the sign-up sheet in the Narthex.

Barbara Jepson
ACW President

MITTEN TREE

The ACW is sponsoring a "Mitten Tree" outreach project with the hope that the entire parish family will participate. On November 27 a tree will appear, ready to be decorated with new mittens (or gloves) to warm the hands and hearts of needy school children in our local DuPage Township area. On Monday, December 12, they will be delivered for distribution as a Christmas blessing before the holiday break.

Libby Bolton
Chairman

COOKIE WALK
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11TH

It's time for our annual Cookie Walk with proceeds to benefit the outreach of All Saints ACW!

Each parish family is asked to bake 6 dozen cookies (sign up sheet in narthex) and bring them to church between 8:30 and 9:15 AM on Sunday, December 11. After services, we will meet in the undercroft where we will be greeted with a delicious display of many varieties of homemade cookies. Styrofoam containers will be provided for you to fill with the cookie assortment of your choice. The donation is \$6.00 per container! We will also have fancy containers available for sale and to fill at an additional cost.

If anyone needs cookies picked up, please let me know and I will try and accommodate your request. FRIENDS ARE WELCOME to our sale! We will begin selling at 10:45 AM and conclude the sale at 11:45 AM. PLEASE support this project by baking and buying! Please contact me at 630-985-0320 for further information.

Jane Munsie
Cookie Walk Chairman

Dates to Remember

November 2, All Souls' Day Requiem Mass, 7:00 PM
November 5, Morning Prayer, 8:30 AM,
Special Vestry Meeting, 9:00 AM
November 6, ACM and ACW Meetings
November 13, All Saints' Day Salad Luncheon
November 20, Vestry
F.I.S.H.
November 24, Thanksgiving Day Mass, 9:00 AM
November 27, Mitten Tree Collection begins
December 3, Parish Christmas Party at the Longinows
December 11, ACW Cookie Walk, 10:45 AM
January 22, Annual Parish Meeting

ALL SAINTS ANGLICAN CHURCH: A parish in the Anglican Province of Christ the King. A nationwide body of traditional Anglican churches dedicated to the Anglo-Catholic Faith and traditional Episcopal liturgy. For more information visit : www.anglicanpck.org or www.allsaintsanglicanparish.org. Tell people about us – there are many fellow Christians out there who are hurting and are feeling both hopeless and lost.

All Saints Anglican Church
(Traditional Episcopal)
Using the
1928 Book of Common Prayer

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WEBSITES

www.allsaintsanglicanparish.org
www.anglicanpck.org

Holy Eucharist and Church School
Sundays at 9:30 AM
Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays
At 10 AM and Wednesdays at 7 PM
The Rev. John A. Hines, Rector

Newsletter Editorial Staff
Fr. Hines
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If you have any questions, comments, suggestions or wish to contribute in any way, please contact Fr. Hines or Marcia Wilson.