

Catholic Parent – 5 – Generosity

In this episode, we explore tithing: our obligation to provide for the material needs of the Church. We also examine how generosity bears fruit in our lives. [VIDEOS HERE](#)

NOTES:

- [CIY Day # 313: Ownership of Goods](#) - CCC #2401-2406
- Paradox – something that appears to be contradictory but isn't - 2 truths that are in tension.
 - **Universal Destination of Goods** – The whole of the world's resources are made to satisfy the whole of the world's needs.
 - **The Right to Private Property** – to own property is legitimate.
- We need both. Must keep in check – distortion of either truth is a problem.
- We are a **STEWARDS** of the resources.

Questions for group discussion or personal reflection

- What in this episode resonated with you as a Catholic parent?
- Did your parents tithe?
 - What “lessons” about money did you inherit from them?
- What emotional struggles do you face as you tithe?
 - How do you feel?
 - What sort of things keep you from tithing or make it really difficult?
- Do you and your spouse agree on the amount you tithe and who you give your money to?
 - How do you resolve these differences when they come up?
- How are you teaching your children about tithing?
 - How would you explain to your own children why we give generously?

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Take to Prayer

- The Church needs what we have so that it can offer the sacraments, maintain places for worship, and care for the spiritual and temporal needs of all.
 - (See Code of Canon Law, Book II, #222)
- St. Thomas More: “I die the king’s faithful servant, but God’s first.”
- “So they gathered them up, and from the fragments of the five barley loaves, left by those who had eaten, they filled twelve baskets.” (John 6:13)

Ideas for living it in your home

For every family

- Take a look around your parish: the church building, the gathering space, and the grounds.
- All of this was paid for through gifts of past parishioners.
- You have a duty to provide for the future of your parish.
- Spend time learning about the needs of your parish and diocese and reflect prayerfully on how you can be more generous.

For families with young children

- From a very young age, children can learn to tithe.
- When they receive a dollar for their birthday, teach them to place a dime in the collection basket.

For families with older children

- We continue to teach our children to tithe when they begin to work.
- Remind your children that they are also called to be good stewards and that a portion of their money belongs to the Church and the poor.