

NO MONEY, NO MISSION



Occasionally Catholics ask, "Why is the Church always talking about money?" They may think that the Church is wealthy and can do without the financial support of individual Catholics. If the Church were supported by government grants or special funds from the Vatican that might be true. Thanks to the separation of church and state, the Church in the United States is able to govern itself without

interference from secular authorities. So the principal source of funding for the Church to perform all its ministries must be all of us. Everyone can give, though not all can give the same amount. We are called to support the Church financially in three ways. The first is with our commitment to God to support our local parish through our weekly offerings. Based upon the weekly collection, the pastor and finance council must cover all parish expenses. Our money in the collection basket ensures that we can serve and be served as Christ calls us. The second way is a donation or pledge to our diocese to fund ministries and programs that are too costly or complicated for any single parish to provide. The more we support our diocese, the more we ensure that the Church can train future priests and provide education, social services, and marriage and family services—to name but a few. The third way is through gifts that we choose to give to second collections, which benefit various causes in our parish, our diocese, or beyond. These are causes that the Church says are worthy of our support. We decide which ones we wish to support and with what amount as we are able. We, as the Body of Christ, can only fulfill our mission if there is money to pay the way.

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Living Stewardship Now

The biblical ideal of giving money back to God is the tithe (10 percent), of which we now suggest that half go to your parish and local diocese and the rest to your favorite charities. If this amount seems impossible because, for example, you are unemployed or on a small fixed income, set an amount that works for you and try to give it regularly. Copyright © 2010, World Library Publications. All rights reserved.

