

# FOR CHRIST & THE WORLD



## A Note on Giving

from Fr. Dean  
June, 2012

In support of the parish of St. Paul, L'Amoreaux, I ask you to consider these three things.

### *REGULAR GIVING*



The offering of our lives is an essential part of the Christian life, which is why gifts are received at every service. Gratitude is the centre of the Christian life and the regular giving of our 'first fruits' (which refers to the first and best of an annual harvest) is an essential discipline.

Regularity also matches the financial obligations of the church which, like a household, do not take vacations: utilities, telephone bills, cleaning. To that end, we strongly encourage people to enter the "Pre-Authorized Payment Program". It's easy, regular, and it's simple to stop or adjust. Fill out one of the PAG forms or speak to our envelope secretaries, Joe and Jennifer Sue-Ho.

### *THE 2% START TOWARD THE 10% TITHE*

# 2%

The ideal of Christian giving is the 10% tithe. This ideal reaches back to the formation of God's people in the wilderness where they are taught to give the first fruits of their harvest and a tithe of their material wealth in thanksgiving for God's mercy and a sign that their lives belong to the Lord. The tithe remains the ideal, but for those entering this Christian discipline, which can be daunting to begin with, a 2% start is recommended, or the equivalent of one hour's salary each week. It may sound small, but the average Anglican in Canada gives of only 1.4% of their annual income.

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It's the little things that intrigue me. What good does it do to teach a child to give a tenth of their allowance at Sunday School? What difference does their dime or quarter make?

There's another very important matter to consider. Volunteerism and charitable giving are part of the backbone of Canadian society. A vital democracy, and most of the services and activities we take for granted, would not exist without volunteers and charitable givers. This is a characteristic that must be encouraged and enriched. The church is an obvious example, St. Paul's Centre is another, with over 270 volunteers in the parish, over 500 in the Centre.

But here are some stark reminders: in 2010, the average income in Canada was \$54,000. The average gift was \$260. That is one half of one percent. According to our Diocesan Stewardship Director, since 1980, the number of Canadians who recorded a charitable gift on their income tax form declined from 40% to 26%. Not surprisingly, volunteerism has declined overall, also.

The grateful obligation of our regular offerings is a character-forming habit. It's primary purpose is our grateful response to the mercy of God. But in this simple gift of our lives through charitable giving and volunteerism, we are building good lives. In Canada the religiously active are the highest percentage of volunteers and the most generous givers. But the grateful life spills over and back upon us. We contribute to the peace, generosity and harmony of our land. We receive back life enriched by serving others and blessed by God.



## Name of Contributor:

I hereby request and authorize the Anglican Diocese of Toronto to withdraw from my account each month the amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_ as a contribution by me to my local church and in the amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_ to FaithWorks.

For joint accounts, both signatures must appear on this form. This authorization may be cancelled at any time upon written notice.

Name and address of local church:

St. Paul's Church, L'Amoreaux  
3333 Finch Ave. E., Scarborough, Ontario  
M1W 2R9

If you would like your parish to record designated amounts from your PAG for specific projects, please indicate projects and amounts here.

Bank Account # \_\_\_\_\_

Type of Account: \_\_\_\_\_

Name & Address of Financial Institution:

To ensure accuracy, a sample cheque marked "void" must accompany this card to be placed in an envelope for the offering place at your parish.

Signature of contributor(s)