



It is said that Christians who begin tithing will have at least six surprises. They will be surprised at the amount of money they have for the Lord's work; at the deepening of their spiritual life; at the ease with which they can meet their own obligations; at the ease with which they can go from one tenth to larger giving; at the preparation this gives for being a faithful and wise steward of the nine tenths remaining; at themselves for not adopting this practice sooner.

The prophet Haggai (1:6) spoke to a people who were reluctant to commit to the temporal needs of God's kingdom. They feared the cost of the House of God. Yet at the same time their lives seemed out of order and unmanageable. "You have sown much, but have brought in little; you have eaten, but not been satisfied... and he who earned wages, earned them for a bag with holes in it."

In contrast, when Jesus gave thanks and shared what little he was given, five loaves and two fish provided enough for a large crowd with twelve baskets left over for his disciples. Even though it was a miracle, it illustrates the workings of God, the silent partner of those who order their increase towards God's kingdom in a spirit of freedom and faith.

This month our annual parish financial report will be presented for your review. This is my opportunity to thank you for your generous financial partnership in support of our parish. I ask each of us to discern in our own hearts where the Lord might be calling us in terms of our tithing commitment to his kingdom.

In gratitude,

*Fr. Jim*