

Barb Hintz - October Witness

Dear Fellow Holy Cross Parishioners,

After receiving the letter from Fr. Tom in the mail, I feel compelled to share some thoughts with you. I'm sure that the Holy Spirit is urging me to do this because it is totally out of my comfort zone to do so.

After growing up on the south side of Kaukauna, as a member of St. Al's, I joined Holy Cross about 37 years ago. At the time, my husband was a Lutheran but he joined me for mass on occasion. He became a member of Holy Cross shortly after our first son was born. After becoming Catholic going to church with me, he often complained that the priest was always asking for money for something or another. When we first married, I paid my dues to Holy Cross & he paid his to Trinity. The difference was that Holy Cross had a set amount that was expected from each member/unit & at Trinity they paid a tithe, or 10% of their earnings. Once he joined HC, we paid the family amount for dues, a savings from what we had paid before that.

Shortly after Fr. Jack came to HC, he introduced tithing to the parishioners. Again, I heard complaints about asking for more money. I explained that he of all people should be able to grasp this idea because it is what he was brought up with. With only one income at the time, finding an extra 10% to give to church was very hard to swallow. Fr. Jack suggested that if we started with just 3% the first year & perhaps 5% the next year it may not be too much to ask. The goal of course was to reach 10% of our income, 5% to church & 5% to other charities of your choice.

Scenarios were given & bible verses were quoted. A discussion followed & many people did not like the proposal. I'm not saying I liked the idea but it made sense to me. I felt it was in our best interest to try it. After all, if everyone in the parish was on board with this, there would never be a need to ask for any additional money from the parishioners. Obviously that isn't happening.

Over the years there have been hardships that we had to face, but I always tried to do what is right when it came to sacrificial giving. We have never had to go without the things that we needed. Sure there were times when we weren't sure where they were going to come from, but somehow what we "needed" was always provided in some way. Of course there are the "wants" that we could have if we didn't have to "give so much to the church" but I consider us to be very blessed to have what we have today.

God has provided us with so many blessings & it is only right that we give back to Him a portion of what He has provided us with. It's time to look at our sacrificial giving & ask ourselves if this is a gift that is pleasing to God. Is it in proportion to what He has blessed us with? Are we truly utilizing the time, talents & treasures that He has blessed us with? Holy Cross is *our parish* and it is our *responsibility* to take care of what has been passed on to us so we can pass it on to our children. God asks us for 10%. Is that too much? How will our sacrifices today affect future generations of Holy Cross parishioners?

God gave Adam and Eve a whole garden but asked them to refrain from one tree. Does that seem like too much to ask? What would life be like for us today if they had followed God's orders?

God Bless You.

Barb Hintz