

Mary Ward

St. Madeline Parish, Ridley Park, PA

My name is Mary Ward. I am a member of St. Madeline's Parish in Ridley Park, PA. I have been asked to share a few thoughts about tithing.

It saved their Church...

I was first introduced to tithing by my daughter, a member of a mission church in a small town in Colorado. The parishioners of that church had been advised by the diocese that they could no longer afford to support them. That is when tithing came into the picture and it saved their church.

When the idea of tithing was first introduced at St. Madeline's, my first thought was, I can't do that, I am a widow. **I'm still paying tuition, I have to get medical insurance, and on and on.** But then I remembered how the little mission church was saved and I also recalled the words of Anne Frank, a 14-year-old Jewish girl who was put to death by the Nazis. She said, "No one has ever become poor by giving."

Did I make the right decision...

So after considerable prayer and thought, I decided it was time for me to put my faith into action. My parish needed my help, so I would try to contribute a little more money, and just maybe, a little more time. Did I make the right decision? You bet!

Trust in God's unconditional love...

Like you, I have bills to pay. I realize the costs and problems of raising a family; I raised 8 children. I know the hardships of unexpected expenses, the loss of a job and extended illness. I have experienced some great joys and some almost unbearable heartaches. But, through it all, I have received tremendous blessing, the love and support of my parish family through some very rough times, a deeper spirituality and my trust in God's unconditional love which gives me a great sense of peace.

So, as you consider tithing, I urge you to remember "**no one has ever become poor by giving.**"

