

**Anne Marie Dimalanta**  
**Our Lady Queen of Martyrs**  
**Forest Hills, NY**

Good morning! My name is Anne Marie Dimalanta.

I came from the Philippines 20 years ago and became a member of St. Teresa's parish in Woodside, NY. Having found a permanent job within a month, I wanted to give something back to God.

After approaching the pastor, Msgr. Hinch, I began teaching CCD classes, became a Eucharistic Minister, and later joined the choir. My life has been enriched; I have received more than I have given.

Tithing was another way of giving something back to God. I had heard about tithing in the Philippines, where it was mandatory for parishioners in Protestant churches to give 10% of their earnings to support their church. It was not a practice in the Catholic Church. Now that I have moved to Our Lady Queen of Martyrs Parish in Forest Hills, I am committed to keeping the tithe.

I am asking you to think about tithing. Tithing means giving 10% of your income to charity – 5% to the support of your church and the other 5% to other charitable works. No one checks on you; it is voluntary -between you and God. Everything we have comes from God; He

gives us our talents to earn our daily bread, the time to use our talents, and the health and strength by which we live. It is only right that we return something to Him.

With tithing we acknowledge that God is the center of our lives. It helps us realize that all our money, talents and our very lives belong to God as trusts to be used, as He would have them used. We are responsible to God for the use we make of His gifts. God does not ask us to give up the pleasures and luxuries of life, but He does call us to help provide for His works regardless of other claims on our personal budget. Tithing is an act of faith in God's loving Providence. We become co-workers with Him.

I invite you to look into your life, to see God's hand in it and to recall all the blessings you have received. Ask yourself: "What return can I give to the Lord for all He has given me?" In tithing, I acknowledge God's generosity in giving me an abundance of His grace, His mercy, and His peace.

Please pray about tithing. Your life will be enriched as mine has been. It is simply giving back to God a share of your earthly blessings!

Thank you.