

St. Thomas More Tithing Grant Information

A current registered St. Thomas More parishioner must be the sponsor of any tithing grant request.

What is Tithing?

The word tithe means "tenth". The practice of giving away 10% of an annual income, usually to a church or charitable organization. The first Biblical reference to tithing is recorded in Genesis 14:20, in which Abraham gave a tithe of his treasure to the high priest, Melchizedek.

The value of tithing varies among different churches. While some hold it as a principle, others use it as standard for giving. At St. Thomas More, the funds allocated for Tithing Grants come from our parish budget and proceeds from Fairtrade sales.

Types of Organizations

The Social Justice Commission's goal is to fund organization's operating at the local, national and international level each time Tithing Grants are allocated. Preference is given to organizations active in the following areas:

- Providing food, shelter, clothing, education and/or health care to the needy
- Prison Ministry
- Development of economic self-sufficiency
- Promotion of peace
- Promotion of the inclusion of diverse peoples as full members of our church and society

The Commission will give preference to organizations that do not do corporate fundraising.

Requests

The range of Tithing Grant requests will be \$10-\$500. The Commission will consider larger requests, but may have to reduce the amount allocated. Overall, the Commission aims to fund as many requests as possible. No Tithing Grants will be given to fund salaries, to fund building campaigns or for operational expenses.

Each organization will usually be funded only once per year. However, the Commission meets twice a year to distribute grants; if there is additional money available, the Commission may consider funding an organization twice a year.

There are a few exceptions to the previous guideline. The Commission consistently funds specific local organizations twice per year:

- Common Fund (*area churches contribute money that goes to community/individual need as determined by their board*)
- Free Lunch Program
- Shelter House
- Community Crisis Services
- Parish Discretionary Fund (*emergency assistance for parishioners/those in need, as determined by the STM office*)
- Iowa City Catholic Worker Houses
- Habitat for Humanity

St. Thomas More Tithing Grant Application

Please send/submit completed forms by **February 5, 2024** to:
St. Thomas More Catholic Church
% Social Justice Commission
3000 12th Ave
Coralville, IA 52241

Full Name *(must be a current registered member of St. Thomas More)*

Phone Number	Email
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Name of Organization	Contact Person at Organization
<hr/>	<hr/>
Mailing Address of Organization	Phone Number of Organization
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<hr/>	What service(s) do(es) this organization provide?
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How does this project support the Christian principles listed under “Types of Organizations” on the front of this application?

What objectives of the organization do you wish to see funded? Please use your own words to describe.

Amount of aid requested (USD):	Where will the money be used? Circle one
<hr/>	locally nationally internationally