

# A Shock for the Parish

A priest in a rural area asked one of his parishioners to serve as the parish's financial chairman. The man, who managed the largest grain elevator in the area, agreed based on two conditions: (1) no report would be due for a year, and (2) no one would ask any questions about the finances during the year.

Although the second request seemed unorthodox, and would involve a great deal of trust, the priest and other key parishioners agreed. They valued the man's expertise and wisdom.

At the end of the year, the man made his report. He had paid off the church debt of \$200,000. He had redecorated the church, sent \$1,000 to missions, and had \$5,000 in the bank.

"How did you do all this?" the priest asked. He did have *some* understanding of what the weekly offerings had been. The congregation, the vast majority of whom were grain farmers, were equally shocked.



The financial chairman answered quietly, "Well, you people all bring your grain to my elevator. As you did business with me, I simply withheld 10 percent and gave it to the church. You never missed it, and it sure added up."

When we are generous toward God's work, we will usually find that what remains is more than sufficient to meet our own needs.

– Beecher Hunter