

# 'I just have to do this'

BY JOHN HOSKINS



She handed me her pledge card. She apologized for the card being taped together.

She explained that her daughter had ripped up the card and stewardship letter from the parish and thrown them in the trash. Her daughter felt that the church shouldn't be asking for money. After all, mom was 85 and surviving on Social Security — how dare the church impose on her mother.

But mom had a different idea. She pulled the pledge card from the trash, carefully taped it together, filled it out, and brought it to the church office.

Her pledge was 25 cents per week. I will let you imagine the Biblical story that flooded my thoughts.

She handed me the card with a simple statement, "I just have to do this." Simple and yet so powerful. She explained the importance of giving and how she felt that it was just expected. Not by the church but by God.

For her this simple act of filling out a card spoke to so many feelings in her life.

Her history.

Her faith.

Her relationship to God.

The love for her church.

And from that, a sense of urgency that she must do this.

As we reflect on her determined generosity, let us consider what motivates us to give, and whether our offerings spring from habit, personal fulfillment, obligation, or status — or, like this woman, from a sense of abundance rooted in faith, and therefore something we must do.

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