



ST. THOMAS AQUINAS REGIONAL SECONDARY SCHOOL
FAITH | COMMUNITY | EXCELLENCE

STA Grad Legacy Project



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What is the Grad Legacy Project?

The grad legacy project began more than 20 years ago when the student-led Walkathon was first introduced as a fundraiser at STA. In alignment with our Catholic values, the project gives 10% of its donations to a charity.

What does the Bible say about giving?

Old Testament

"A tithe of everything from the land, whether grain from the soil or fruit from the trees, belongs to the Lord; it is holy to the Lord." (Leviticus 27:30). The 10% requirement specifically comes from the Hebrew translation of tithe, "עשר" or "ten".

In Old Testament times, there were two kinds of giving: giving to the government, which is always compulsory; and giving to God, which is always voluntary. As the Levitical priests were the civil government, tithes were required taxes for funding the national budget in Israel.

New Testament

By the New Testament, Christians were not commanded to tithe anymore but rather encouraged to voluntarily give to the church (and to God) in proportion to their wealth. Even in New Testament passages like Matthew 22:15-22, Matthew 23:23, and Romans 13:1-7, Jesus was only *referring* to the Old Testament command on tithing – *not* advocating for the return of the requirement.

STA Guidelines for Charity Selection

The guidelines for the charity are:

- Catholic-supported charities or any personal connection
- Developing countries
- Helps young people
- In the year when there is a trip to the Philippines, the Grad Legacy gift will be allocated to a specific outreach in the Philippines.

Before March Break, the graduating class will vote on their choice of charity. Their selection is shared with the STA community in the Spring.