

## **FUNDRAISING AND COLLECTIONS**

### **Bishop's Annual Appeal<sup>1</sup>**

All priests are asked to encourage the people to take part generously in the Bishop's Annual Appeal. This appeal is the reason we are able to keep the diocesan assessment from increasing.

In this Diocese, there are no goals for the Bishop's Annual Appeal. Many dioceses that have an annual diocesan appeal assess each parish 10% of their ordinary income, besides the annual assessment. We are very blessed in this diocese, but we need the cooperation of every priest to make this appeal a success. Each priest is asked to have the realization that by promoting the Bishop's Annual Appeal, all parishes benefit greatly. Besides being responsible for the lowering of assessments, response to this appeal has enabled us to support ministry in our poorer parishes, to acquire property for future parishes, to have greater support for the ministries in all our parishes, to help in the formation of our seminarians, to give scholarships for needy families for Catholic education, and, in the past, to help a great deal with our retired priests.

The Bishop's Annual Appeal runs each year from September to August. The appeal is planned each year in the spring and materials are distributed to the parishes in July and August. During late winter and early spring, parishes are asked to update their mailing lists to send to the development director.

The success of this appeal depends greatly on this updating each year of the parish mailing list. This is a serious responsibility for the pastor in promoting the appeal for the good of the whole Diocese. Each parishioner on the mailing list receives a letter from the bishop in the middle of September with a return envelope addressed to the Development Office. The cost and effectiveness of the appeal is directly proportional to the quality of the mailing list. This appeal has not even begun to reach its potential. It is the pastors alone who can make this appeal a yearly success.

The Development Director manages the Bishop's Annual Appeal. Any questions you may have regarding it, you may contact him directly.

### **Major Fundraisers in a Parish<sup>2</sup>**

Before beginning a major fundraiser for a major project, permission must be obtained from the bishop for the project. The request should be in writing speaking of the need, and explaining how the parish finance council and parish pastoral council have been involved in developing the plan.

### **Promotion of Wills and Living Trusts<sup>3</sup>**

Each pastor should be concerned about the future of the parish. It is important to let people know about the opportunities to name the parish or parish school in their will, or to set up bequests and living trusts, which can have a good deal of tax advantage for the people. If you need information on this, you may contact the Development Director. He has set up workshops for people in clusters of parishes and can do this in your area, if there are a sufficient number of people to attend.

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<sup>1</sup> Issued May 1998

<sup>2</sup> Issued May 1998

<sup>3</sup> Issued May 1998

## Second Collections<sup>4</sup>

We have made an effort to keep our second collections down in this Diocese. Since 1996, we have combined a number of the national collections into three main groupings: international needs, home missions, and domestic needs. Pastors should encourage the people to respond to these collections generously, as the money must be divided among two or three different causes, all of which are worthy. This was instituted on an experimental basis in our Diocese.

Pastors should emphasize all second collections. Those that affect us very much are: seminary collection, Catholic Charities, and the priests retirement.

After each collection, parishes should send the money to the accounting office so one check from the Diocese can be sent as soon as possible to those who benefit.

Most pastors arrange with the envelope companies that supply Sunday envelopes to have the second collection envelopes included with their order. If you need special envelopes for any of these second collections, please contact the director of development, who oversees the second collection program.

Second collections should become an occasion of teaching God's people. Information on these collections is normally sent to pastors. They should try to communicate as much of this information as possible to the people so they appreciate all the more their oneness in the Body of Christ with the universal Church and realize the many good works the Church is involved in not only here in the United States but throughout the world.

### Processing Special Collections

Please use the following guidelines for forwarding your Special Collections to the Diocese of Fresno. This will ensure that we properly post your check to the appropriate special collection account.

Do not commingle special collections checks with assessment and other checks to the Diocese, as the special collections checks are deposited into a separate custodian account.

Except where noted below, mail all checks to:

Diocese of Fresno  
1550 N. Fresno Street  
Fresno, CA 93703-3788

### **Catholic Communications, International Needs, Good Friday - Holy Land, Home Missions, Peter's Pence, Cathedral Maintenance, Domestic Needs & Retired Religious**

Make all checks payable to Diocese of Fresno. Please indicate on the check the specific name of the special collection that your check is covering.

### **Mission Sunday/Propagation of Faith**

Make these checks payable to Diocese of Fresno. Please indicate "Propagation of Faith" on the check.

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<sup>4</sup> Issued May 1998

**Rice Bowl**

Make check payable to Diocese of Fresno. Please indicate "Rice Bowl" on the check.

**Other Miscellaneous Disaster Collections** (e.g., hurricane, flood relief, etc.)

Make check payable to Diocese of Fresno and indicate the name of the disaster on the check.

**Fathers' Day Priest Retirement and Binations**

Make check payable to: Priests' Retirement Fund

and mail to:

Diocese of Fresno  
Office of the Vicar General  
Attn: Priest Retirement Fund  
1550 N. Fresno St.  
Fresno, CA 93703-3788

**Catholic Charities**

Make these checks payable to: Catholic Charities.

Please indicate: "Special Collection" on the check and mail all checks to:

Catholic Charities  
149 N. Fulton St  
Fresno, CA 93701-1607