

# The Loop

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*The Loop is back! Yes, after a long absence, our newsletter returns. The Loop Newsletter is published by the Office of Stewardship & Development to keep you informed about the annual Catholic Charity Appeal. We will “keep you in the loop” regarding news and events which we hope you will find helpful and informative.*

## New Catholic Charity Appeal Logo

Our new Catholic Charity Appeal logo presents an opportunity to share the stewardship narrative in a particular, even literal way. It suggests the model and form of Christian stewardship, why and how it is lived. Its three elements — hand, heart and cross — echo the previous logo as well as the imagery and theme used during the Year of Evangelization: “Works of mercy need a hand.”

Hand, heart and cross, woven together, help tell that story. Scripture is full of references to hands seeking and offering, giving and healing. God’s provident care is frequently depicted as coming from His caring, powerful hand, upon which He even has written the name of His people. Our hands are often open, reaching for God’s help and blessing. And the gospels constantly show us the compassionate comfort at the hands



of Jesus. Jesus is the generous giver of grace and the model of self-giving. The hand of Christ is the active instrument of mercy and His heart is the source of that mercy. His humanity is God’s mercy in the flesh. He emptied Himself, becoming the servant who fills our emptiness with peace and hope. He even goes so far as to give His life on the cross. On the cross, Jesus renews our relationship of friendship and peace with God. But on the cross He also calls us to a new way of life — one that is as equally self-giving as His. The hand marked by the cross acknowledges that Christians no longer live for themselves, but live by faith in the Son of God, a “faith working through love.” The hand marked by the cross is a sign of an inescapable truth: Christians receive mercy and must give mercy. Once empty-handed, we received mercy; now filled, we must

share mercy. So, like Christ we open our hearts and hands to fill the hearts and hands of others with mercy — with compassion and friendship, dignity and peace — for their bodies and souls. We fulfill Christ’s law of love by extending a hand in mercy to relieve the burdens of God’s people. When we do this, we imitate Christ, the model for all good stewards of God’s many blessings.

## Reporting Cash Gifts

If you do not wish to mail cash to Letter Concepts, please deposit the cash into your parish account and then prepare a parish check for the amount deposited. Place a rubber bank around those envelopes or pledge cards that correspond with the cash gifts, place them in the priority envelope and mail them to Letter Concepts. Please do not staple checks to in-pew envelopes. Also, remember to use the pre-addressed Let-

ter Concepts labels, United States Postal Service Priority Envelopes and Delivery Confirmation Receipts that have been provided in your parish Tool Kit when submitting returns for processing. The address on the return labels reads as follows:

The Catholic Charity Fund  
Diocese of Providence  
P.O. Box 276  
Kensington, CT 06037-0276

## In This Issue:

- New Catholic Charity Appeal Logo
- Reporting Cash Gifts
- Matching Gifts
- Roster Maintenance
- On-line Giving
- New Credit Card Donation Requirements

## Are Your Parishioners Matching Their Gifts?

Did you know that there are Matching Gift Programs that are offered by different companies throughout Rhode Island? When a donor makes a pledge or cash gift, their employer may match that gift to a certain amount. Please mention Matching Gift Programs to your parishioners during the upcoming Appeal so they may obtain information from their employers and maximize their generosity.

## Send in Updates Frequently

Our database consists of over 175,000 donor records, each with their own Constituent ID. Because we have so many donors, it is important for us to stay in touch with our parishes and stay up-to-date with any changes that may have taken place with our donors. Thank you for sending us your parishioner name changes, address changes, additions and deletions. When a parishioner's information changes, it is best to send the

change to us as soon as possible. We recommend sending these changes as they occur or send them on a monthly basis. Any information such as a donor being deceased, married, divorced or having moved into a nursing home is important information that should be included if possible. Parishioner updates may be faxed, mailed or e-mailed to us at [stewardship@dioceseofprovidence.org](mailto:stewardship@dioceseofprovidence.org).

## On-line Gift Giving

When delivering your lay witness presentation during your parish's in-pew weekend, be sure to encourage your parishioners to consider making their gift on-line using our secure website. It's easy. Just log on to [providencediocese.org](http://providencediocese.org) and

click onto the link for the Catholic Charity Appeal. A donor can make a payment on a pledge or set up a new pledge to spread their gift over a period of time and receive monthly or quarterly reminders. Or, a donor can make a recurring gift by setting up auto-

matic, regular payments over time. And finally, a donor can make a one-time gift to the annual Appeal.

*Your secure on-line gift is a generous investment in our mission. Thank you!*

## New Credit Card Donation Requirements

The major credit card providers have now implemented new rules called PCI Compliance. Under these new rules, organizations like the Catholic Charity Appeal can no longer accept a person's credit card number over the phone, in writing, or store those records if they wish to be a vendor using these cards. PCI which stands for "Payment Card Industry" is designed to protect credit card users from fraud, identity theft and credit card fraud. Under the new guidelines all credit card giving must now take place through a secure and encrypted web site. Since July, the Stewardship & Development Office has created a new link on its web site to provide such a secure location for

donations. A letter was sent to current donors who use credit cards in July to inform them of the changes. Parishioners who wish to use a credit card must now go online to [providencediocese.org](http://providencediocese.org) and click on the donate button. Once a parishioner reaches the donation screen, they may enter all of the required information including credit card information and the parish the donor wishes the gift credited to for the Appeal. A donor can make either a one-time credit card gift or what is called a recurring gift or pledge through this website. Donors should also note that the Stewardship & Development staff has now been trained not to accept credit card information over the telephone, nor will any credit card infor-

mation be stored at the diocesan offices. Parishioners with credit card information changes during the course of the year will be notified via mail that they must now go back online to provide new credit card information. While this requires individual parishioners to do a bit more than in the past to make a gift via a credit card, this new system provides tremendous benefits to them. It completely reduces the risk of credit card fraud, identity theft and the loss of personal credit information. From the second they put their information on the secure website it is encrypted, no other human being sees it, and it goes directly to the credit card company for processing.