

The Loop

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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.

Description of Manuals and Guides

Does your parish struggle every year to reach the Catholic Charity goal? Are you looking for some statistics about the number of people who benefit from the Catholic Charity Appeal? Have you been recruited to serve as a lay witness presenter? Don't panic! The Office of Stewardship & Development has numerous helpful resource materials to guide you along the way. The following manuals and guides are available on our website at www.providencediocese.org:

Leadership Resource Manual

Each year the Stewardship & Development Office produces a Leadership Resource Manual to assist clergy and parish lay leaders in successfully conducting the Catholic Charity Appeal at the parish level. This comprehensive manual covers a variety of topics to provide an easy reference for these key volunteers. Sections of the manual are revised each year. The Leadership manual is a tool that, if effectively applied, will assist parishes in conducting the most effective Appeal possible.

A Guide for the Lay Witness Presenter

The in-pew method of solicitation can be very effective in soliciting a large percentage of the congregation on a single weekend. It is likely that most of the people who attend Mass on the In-pew Weekend will contribute to the Catholic Charity Appeal. This is a great opportunity to reach these parishioners and increase participation. This Guide for the Lay Witness Presenter will be helpful in the preparation and delivery of a lay witness presentation.

Ministry Impact Statement Booklet

This booklet contains impact statements for the ministries of the Secretariats for Catholic Education and Evangelization, and Catholic Charities and Social Ministry. These impact statements from our various ministries answer three questions; namely, “What we do,” “Why we do it,” and “How we do it.” We encourage the use of these impact statements within your parish’s bulletin announcements, pulpit announcements and lay witness remarks presented on your in-pew weekends.

The Appeal Process – A Week by Week Action Plan

This guide for parish leaders details action plans for ten weeks of the Catholic Charity Appeal. From attending our workshops on week 1 to thanking donors on week 10, this is an invaluable tool for both the novice and seasoned chairperson. Throughout this guide, you will be introduced to information that will assist you in achieving your Catholic Charity goal. In addition, resource material has been referenced along with an occasional symbol indicating a great idea which may be of help to you in your Appeal efforts. This guide may be just the blueprint you need for a successful Catholic Charity Appeal at your parish.

A Guide for the New Catholic Charity Appeal Chairperson

You have been asked to serve as a parish chairperson for the Catholic Charity Appeal. Now what? The *Guide for the New Catholic Charity Appeal Chairperson* explains your responsibilities while detailing some basic tools that you will utilize such as the pledge card and in-pew envelope. In addition to summarizing the ten steps to success for in-pew solicitation, this guide also includes a description of the materials that are provided in your parish tool kit.

Frequently Asked Questions About the Catholic Charity Appeal

Do you have a question about the Catholic Charity Appeal? This guide addresses general questions about the Appeal as well as questions from donors and parish secretaries. What is the Bishop’s Partnership in Charity? How can I make a gift online using my credit card? Should our parish plan for one or two in-pew weekends? These questions plus twenty-two others are answered in this informative guide.

Did You Know?

Your gift to the annual Catholic Charity Appeal supports over 20,100 individuals who received assistance and referrals from Project Hope. Thank you for your support.

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**Description of Manuals and Guides
Continued**

Clergy Luncheons — Save the Date

Catholic Charity Appeal Monthly Bulletin Insert Booklet

The Monthly Bulletin Insert Booklet contains five bulletin inserts that can be used to promote the annual Appeal. The inserts begin in February with the Appeal Prayer. The March bulletin insert announces the start of the Appeal and the April insert indicates that it is the goal of every Catholic Charity Appeal ministry to continue the redemptive work of Christ in our world. In May, an insert includes some statistics about the number of people who benefit from the annual Appeal. The final bulletin insert in June encourages that “It’s not too late to pledge your support.”

Your Catholic Charity Fund Appeal Dollars at Work

Have you been recruited to provide a lay witness presentation? Are you looking for some short stories of hope and impact to include in your talk about the Catholic Charity Appeal? Page through this guide which includes a compilation of stories about those who have benefited from the Catholic Charity Appeal. This guide includes heartwarming stories from Saint Martin de Pores Center, Saint Antoine Residence, Project Hope, Keep the Heat On, and the Office of Comprehensive Youth Ministry.

Secrets to Success to Ensure a Successful Catholic Charity Appeal

This guide spotlights three parishes in our diocese (Christ the King in Kingston, Saint Timothy in Warwick, and Saint Patrick in Providence) that have conducted successful Catholic Charity Appeals. The guide includes the preparation, methodology, follow-up and even includes words of wisdom from the pastors. We encourage you to read through this resource to see how these parishes conduct their Appeal effort.

Effective Strategies to Achieve Your Goal

Pastors recently participated in a questionnaire where they shared their strategy for their parish’s primary and follow-up methods of solicitation. Pastors also shared their secrets to success in achieving their parish’s Catholic Charity goal. Responses from the questionnaires were compiled by the Office of Stewardship & Development into a guide, *Effective Strategies to Achieve Your Goal*, for distribution to pastors and Catholic Charity Appeal chairpersons. These “effective strategies” will prove to be an invaluable resource for parish leadership teams in conducting a successful Catholic Charity Appeal.

Catholic Charity Appeal Homily Helps

This guide has been developed for those pastors who may not have a specific theme or idea to inspire and encourage parishioners to support the Catholic Charity Appeal. It is also an excellent resource for those pastors who would like to use a fresh approach to motivate their parishioners to give to the 2014 Appeal.

Lay Witness Resource Guide

Are you having difficulty recruiting a lay witness presenter for your parish’s in-pew weekend? The Lay Witness Resource Guide is a great addition to your parish tool kit. This guide includes a listing of speakers who are willing to address your parishioners about the importance of supporting the Catholic Charity Appeal.

The Office of Stewardship & Development will be hosting one Catholic Charity Appeal Clergy Luncheon. This will be a wonderful opportunity for clergy to learn what is new regarding the upcoming 2014 Appeal. An invitation for the clergy luncheon will be mailed in January. This year, the clergy luncheon will be located at :

**Saint Augustine Church in Providence
Wednesday, February 5, 2014
12:00pm to 1:30pm**

Parish Prayer Cards

Please contact the Office of Stewardship & Development if your parish is interested in prayer cards for the success of the 2014 Catholic Charity Appeal. We will then provide you with the contact information for Copy World Printers in Warwick who will customize a prayer card for your particular parish. The prices for printing these prayer cards are as follows.

Quantity of 200.....	\$55.00
Quantity of 500.....	\$80.00
Quantity of 1,000.....	\$140.00
Quantity of 2,250.....	\$285.00

“The Loop” Feedback

We want to hear from you. Do you find this newsletter helpful? Does it provide you with valuable information to assist you in achieving a successful Catholic Charity Appeal in your parish? We hope it does. Do you have any comments or suggestions on how we can improve this newsletter to serve you better? Please send your feedback to stewardship@dioceseofprovidence.org.