

The Loop

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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.

10 Steps to Success for In-pew Solicitation

1. Be sure that parishioners have at least two weeks advance notice before they are asked for their gifts. This way they will come to church prepared to make a pledge or cash donation.
2. Utilize special bulletin announcements, pulpit announcements and Prayers of the Faithful to inform parishioners of the upcoming Appeal and its benefits to those in need.
3. Recruit a lay witness. The use of a lay witness is an effective means of increasing participation. Select those among your parishioners who are energetic and enthusiastic speakers. Remember that people give to people.
4. One week prior to your in-pew weekends, remind and encourage parishioners to read the Catholic Charity Appeal Brochure that was mailed to them.
5. On in-pew weekends, place in-pew envelopes and pens at the ends of the pews (replenish the supply before each Mass).
6. After the celebrant gives a brief homily, a lay witness shares his/her experience regarding the Catholic Charity Appeal.
7. Either the celebrant or the lay witness should then give step-by-step instructions on how to fill out the in-pew envelope, with emphasis on promoting the pledge system. Encourage the parishioners to complete the envelopes in church. Do not encourage them to take the envelopes home.
8. At this point, the parishioners are now prepared to make their donations. Allow two to three minutes for the parishioners to make their contributions.
9. The ushers or special collectors should now collect the completed envelopes.
10. As with all methods of solicitation, the follow-up is an essential and integral part of the Appeal. It is important that every parishioner has the opportunity to give. Therefore, it is recommended that a follow-up method of solicitation be utilized.

Catholic Charity Appeal Homily Helps

Each year, Forbes magazine publishes a list of the world's richest people. I think it's safe to say that there is no one here today who is a "major player" on that list. But that doesn't mean that we're not wealthy. In fact, a visit to the website globalrichlist.com allows you to see exactly where you stand in wealth out of the roughly six billion people in the world. You may laugh, but the results can be eye-opening – even jaw-dropping.

For example, if you have a yearly income of \$30,000, you are in the top 7.2% of the world's richest people. That means that there are 5.5 billion people in the world who are poorer than you. That's hard to even imagine, let alone believe. If you have a yearly income of \$45,000, you are in the top 1.7% of the world's richest people. That can either cheer you up, or depress you at how desperately poor many in the world are. One way or another, it lets us see things from a very different perspective.

When we hear the words Jesus speaks to us today, "If you love me, you will keep the commandments," let us think not only of the Ten Commandments, but let us also think of the many commandments Jesus himself gave us: "Love one another as I have loved you," "Your light must shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Heavenly Father," "Whatever you did for the least of my brothers and sisters, you did for me," "Much will be required of the person entrusted with much, and still more will be demanded of the person entrusted with more."

May God bless the spirit of generosity in which we respond to Catholic Charities, and to all the many ways in which we live out Jesus' commandments of love and service in our lives, knowing that "the measure we give to others will be the measure we receive from God."

Did You Know?

Through your support of the Catholic Charity Appeal, 1,838 youth attended 56 retreats from over 55 parishes and 9 Catholic schools.

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