

# 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.*

## Chairperson Spotlight Adeline "Babe" Hawkins



Adeline (Babe) Hawkins began volunteering as Chairperson for the Catholic Charity Appeal in 1957, a role she has devotedly undertaken for the past 55 years. She has been a parishioner at Saint Martha Parish in East Providence since it was established on September 13, 1956. She remembers the first pastor of Saint Martha Parish, Reverend Monsignor Joseph F. Bracq, making an announcement from the pulpit that there was a need for volunteers to go door-to-door collecting for the 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Catholic Charity Fund Appeal. Babe Hawkins recalls, "When I heard the announcement, it sounded like a wonderful opportunity for me to become involved at my new parish." At that time, door-to-door was predominantly the one and only method that parishes used for soliciting gifts for the annual Appeal. Everyone knew that on that specified "Blitz Sunday," you were expected to stay home in anticipation of someone knocking at your door asking you to make a donation. According to Babe, "In those days, a large contribution was \$25." In the late 1950's, assuming the title of Chairperson for the annual Appeal was no easy job. Each parish would receive a certain quantity of blank pledge cards based upon the number of parishioners in their respective parish. It was then the responsibility of the Chairperson to type each parishioner name and address on a card. Babe remembers how she had to organize the typewritten cards by street order and distribute an average of 15 prospect pledge cards to each of the 80 volunteer solicitors. By the late 1980's, with the influx of new parishioners, it was becoming increasingly difficult to recruit enough volunteers to visit and solicit each household personally. Babe worked as Chairperson during the decade of the 1990's making telephone calls to those who had yet to make a gift. Immediately upon hearing her voice, many of the parishioners she called responded by saying, "Oh! I forgot. I'm so glad you called to remind me." Grateful to God for her many gifts, Babe Hawkins takes the Catholic Charity Appeal very seriously by answering Jesus' call to, "Come, follow me." She gives back some of her time and talent in order to help those less fortunate in our diocesan family who turn to the Church for help.

## REMINDER

### Parish Roster Maintenance

In a memorandum to pastors and administrators dated September 19th, Anthony Gwiazdowski asked that parish staff update parishioner rosters as soon as possible. He stated, "The accuracy of your parish rosters is extremely important. Therefore, I seek your cooperation regarding the following bullet points."

- Your parish roster has been attached in a "pdf" format. Please note that you will not be able to make changes within this document. We ask that you respond with changed pages only by e-mail to [stewardship@dioceseofprovidence.org](mailto:stewardship@dioceseofprovidence.org) with "Roster Maintenance" in the subject line, or you may **fax** to 277-2120 or **mail** changed pages only to our office.
- It is imperative that your Catholic Charity Appeal roster changes be returned to this office no later than **October 28th, 2011**.
- If we do not receive a response from your parish by October 28th, we will assume that there are no changes and we will note this in your parish file. Roster changes received after October 28th may not be completed in time for the Appeal and unfortunately, your pledge cards will not include up-to-date parishioner information.

## Parish Share Program

Would you like to participate in the Parish Share Program? If so, the deadline for signing up is Friday, February 3rd. Please be advised that you must complete the Parish Share Form **EACH YEAR!**

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