



Memorandum

Cathedral Square Plaza

OFFICE OF THE DIOCESAN ADMINISTRATOR

To: Priests
From: Rev. Donald P. Oleksiak
Date: 7 April 2020
Re: Offertory Recovery Program

Happy Tuesday of Holy Week!

I am sending this to all priests to keep everyone informed. I am encouraged today to share some good news with you in response to the financial impact that the COVID-19 pandemic is having on our parishes. The Diocese is considering an **Offertory Recovery Plan** that will be introduced in the coming weeks to help support our parishes as we continue to face these uncharted waters and now an extended period without the faithful gathering at parishes for Mass. Before we engage in that process it would be helpful if we could get a sense of how many parishes would be interested in participating in this program. The Offertory Recovery Plan would assist you in reaching out to your parishioners, ascertaining how they are doing and inviting them to financially support the parish during this current stay at home order in order for the parish to remain solvent and be ready to welcome them back when this pandemic is concluded. Please send Patrick Grace and email letting him know if you are interested in participating. Pgrace@catholiccommunity.org.

I am also announcing today that the Diocese and the Catholic Community Foundation have established a **Universal Offertory Program** for all 185 parishes. The purpose of this initiative is to provide parishioners with an opportunity to support their local parish via a secure online gift, should their parish not currently have an online giving program. The link to give using the Universal Offertory Program is www.CatholicCommunity.org/Offertory. I encourage you to share this link widely with your parishioners, using all the ways you already communicate. Here are potential tips and suggestions for ALL parishes, whether or not you have an existing online giving program OR you are directing your parishioners to the Universal Offertory Program donation page.

1. Send a letter out to all your parishioners to inform and invite them to participate in giving online either through your parish program or at www.CatholicCommunity.org/offertory.
2. Post the donation link on Facebook and other Social Media
3. Send an email to all your parishioners
4. Use Flocknotes
5. Post in your Parish Bulletin
6. Talk about online giving in your weekly homily or at the point that the offertory is typically collected during Mass
7. Place an online donation link on your website

Please look forward to communication from the Catholic Community Foundation regarding tools and ways to promote the online portal for the Universal Offertory Program to your parishioners.

If you are interested in setting up your own online offertory program, which I encourage you to do, please contact the Catholic Community Foundation. They are available to help you and can connect you with a list of established vendors so that your parish can have online giving in just a couple of days.

The **Emergency Response Fund** that I informed you of last week is open for grant applications: www.CatholicCommunity.org/fund-application. If you have not applied and require emergency funds to respond to people in need in your parish community, please do so. This fund has been established to directly help parishes attend to the basic needs of their parishioners i.e., food, utilities and medicine. We are actively soliciting contributions to add to the \$500,000 in seed money provided by the Catholic Community Foundation. Donors have been asking how they can be of assistance for those most in need. You can view the donation page here: www.CatholicCommunity.org/response.

The Catholic Community Foundation and the Diocese of Cleveland are continuing to work collaboratively with your best interest at heart. Please feel free to contact me or reach out to Patrick Grace, pgrace@catholiccommunity.org, should you have any questions. Know you remain in my daily prayers.