

CONTRIBUTION OF TREASURE 2010

In the life of the Cathedral Parish, all parishioners are given the invitation and the opportunity to know, love and serve God more fully. We also strive to extend to others the invitation to know, love and serve God. This is the mission of the parish.

As a parishioner, you are asked to share in this mission by active involvement in the life of the parish and also through financial support. Your financial contributions are instrumental in supporting the current and future programs of the parish, and in allowing the parish to reach out to others in witness to the Gospel.

On the weekend of November 7th-8th, you will be asked to commit yourself to the financial support of the parish and its mission for the coming year (beginning January 1, 2010).

Many people ask whether there is a required or standard level of giving. This is not really our Catholic tradition. Each person or family must make a personal decision taking account of all the details of their own situation.

One reality is the current financial crisis in our country. In the last six months, many investments have regained much of the value that was lost when the markets collapsed, and many people have not seen their current income much affected. Others, however, have been laid off or have seen a severe decline in self-employment income. Each household must make a conscientious decision as to what is possible at this time.

It is the act of assessing our own level of giving and making a conscious decision that is critically important. If we do *not* do that, it is all too easy to reach for a dollar or two each week and feel satisfied that we have “done something.” If each parishioner does make a conscious decision as to the level of giving, the parish and its mission will be amply supported.

We do not have a long enough history in our merged Cathedral Parish to be able to compare the envelope income of one complete year with the previous one. Nevertheless, it is clear that the commitment drive last year was very helpful in increasing the envelope income thus far in 2009. We need to build on that success this year to make sure that we are operating “in the black.”

In considering your financial commitment, you are asked to consider these specific questions:

- (1) ***What is my actual current level of giving to support the mission of the Church?*** With a little thought – and perhaps consulting the check register – most of us can come up with a pretty good estimate of our current annual contributions to support the mission of the Church. The figure may include contributions to Catholic causes or charities beyond our own parish.
- (2) Divide the above number by 52 to find a weekly average. ***How does this figure compare to my weekly expenditures in other discretionary areas?*** How much do I spend weekly on entertainment (cable TV, movies, tickets to sporting or cultural events)? On dining out, fast food and gourmet coffee? On recreation (health club, golf) or a hobby?
- (3) ***Is my current level of support for the mission of the Church: too little? too much? or about right?*** What should my giving for 2010 be?

Below is a sample of the card that you will receive at Mass on the weekend of November 7th-8th. Please decide which member of your household will complete the card and what your weekly commitment for 2010 will be before coming to Mass that weekend. Thank you!

Commitment of Treasure

"GIVE TO THE MOST HIGH AS HE HAS GIVEN TO YOU, GENEROUSLY, ACCORDING TO YOUR MEANS, FOR THE LORD IS ONE WHO ALWAYS REPAYS, AND HE WILL GIVE BACK TO YOU SEVENFOLD." SIRACH 35:9-10

I understand that the Cathedral Parish is asking all parishioners to review the amount that they give to the parish offertory and to determine whether that amount is enough, too much, or not enough. My/Our new average commitment per week for 2010, beginning January 1, isz:

() \$100.00 () \$75.00 () \$50.00 () \$40.00 () \$35.00 () \$30.00 () \$25.00 () \$20.00 () \$15.00 () Other \$ _____

Name: _____ Address: _____

Apartment number (if any): _____ City/State/Zip: _____

Telephone: _____ E-mail Address: _____

I am not yet a registered parishioner. I would like register as a new member of the Cathedral Parish.

The scale below could also serve as a guide for those who are interested in using it. One way to think about a : income would represent the proceeds from 1 hour out of a 40-hour week of work.

Sample Contribution Scale

Annual Family Income	Weekly average at 4.0%	Weekly average at 3.0%	Weekly average at 2.0%
\$10,000	\$7.00	\$5.00	\$4.00
\$15,000	11.00	8.00	6.00
\$20,000	15.00	11.00	8.00
\$25,000	19.00	14.00	10.00
\$30,000	23.00	17.00	12.00
\$40,000	31.00	23.00	15.00
\$50,000	38.00	29.00	19.00