



To: Pastors, Parochial Administrators, and Parish Stewards
From: J.J. Gonsalves, Associate Director for Parish Services
Date: April 27, 2020
Re: **Sacrificial Giving during the COVID 19 Shutdown**

In the midst of the human and economic suffering caused by the COVID 19 shutdown, it is heartening to witness the response of the Faithful through their continued generosity to the Church.

It seems that tragedy and suffering make us only that much more aware that our own healing comes through doing good deeds and helping others in any way that we can. It is by our witness of Jesus emptying Himself on the cross that we have gained this understanding.

In these times we must be sensitive to the economic suffering of the Faithful, but we also should not shy away from allowing the Faithful the opportunity to find healing through generosity. We should continue to encourage the Faithful to be generous stewards and provide for them creative ways to do so.

Website Giving

For those parishes that do not have a means for their parishioners to give remotely through their website, we have provided the opportunity on The Catholic Foundation website which can also be accessed through the diocesan website. The link is as follows: <https://www.scd.org/catholic-foundation/support-your-parish>. This service is offered free of cost and the Catholic Foundation is covering the cost of any credit card service charges incurred for offertory gifts by credit card. Funds collected are now being remitted to the parishes weekly.

Online Giving

Now is the time to recognize the importance and convenience of online giving (sometimes referred to as electronic giving) by establishing a relationship with an online giving provider and then encouraging parishioners to sign-up. Some of those vendors are currently deep discounting or even eliminating the set-up fees for parishes. The attached sheet provides to you some of the more well-known vendors in this regard.

Ask

Take advantage of opportunities to remind the Faithful to continue the spiritual act of sacrificial generosity. These opportunities include:

- A prominent note on the parish website encouraging parishioners to sign up for online giving with the appropriate link

- Mention of the same in any letters going to the parishioners
- Mention during the time that would normally be the offertory collection during each live stream Mass. Give options for people to give right then via website and encourage sign-up for online giving.

The Catholic Foundation exists to be a resource to our local Church in the area of sacrificial giving. In order that we may assist all parishes with best practices, please share with us your successes so that other parishes can benefit from your good work.

If you or members of your parish Finance Council have questions regarding the above or any other matter, please do not hesitate to call me at 916-733-0270 or e-mail at jkgonsalves@scd.org.

Online Giving Vendors

Our Sunday Visitor (OSV):

OSV is currently waiving the \$200.00 set-up fee for all new Online giving customers. For small parishes (500 households or below) the \$25 monthly fee will also be waived for the first three months. New Online Giving can be set-up within 5-7 business days. **For more information or to sign-up for Online Giving please contact Mary Campbell at mcampbell@osv.com or 1-800-348-2886 ext. 3073**

Faith Direct:

Effective today, we are offering to setup Faith Direct and waive our program fees for 60 days with any parish in your diocese. This assures that all parishes will be able to receive donations online within a few days.

Please reach out to me at your convenience to discuss a plan to put this into action.

Violeta Swokowski, Account Executive – Western Region

violeta@faithdirect.net

623.521.7900-direct

866.507.8757 ext. 2116 toll-free,. *Hablo español*

LPI:

LPI is offering a waiver of the monthly fees for their online giving platform for the next six months for any parishes who are in need of assistance. They can have the parish set up in 2 days.

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