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## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

**Q. Why emphasize face-to-face visits?**

**A.** Personal, face-to-face contact remains the single best way to ask for support. It emphasizes the personal nature of giving, allows a thorough presentation of the statement of need, gives potential donors the opportunity to ask questions and allows volunteers to express their enthusiasm. Personal visits also give us the opportunity for evangelization, for building up the Church and our community. By personally contacting our fellow parishioners, we can place a greater emphasis on stewardship by sharing our own faith experience and participation.

**Q. Who will participate in the *We Are the Body of Christ* campaign?**

**A.** All members of our community will be invited to participate in the *We Are the Body of Christ* campaign.

**Q. How will this campaign impact the parish offertory?**

**A.** Parish offertory is not expected to fluctuate during the *We Are the Body of Christ* campaign. Parishioners are asked to give above and beyond their regular offertory giving. Campaigns like *We Are the Body of Christ* can lead to increased offertory long-term. Parishioners may engage more deeply with the parish because of the campaign, and increase their offertory giving when their pledge payments conclude.

**Q. Why does my request letter ask for a specific gift amount?**

**A.** A gift amount is suggested for each household to reach the \$20M goal. Each household's financial situation is different. Please pray about a gift proportionate to your capability.

**Q. Why ask parishioners for different amounts? Isn't it easier and fair to divide the parish goal by the number of households?**

**A.** It certainly would be easier. However, it would not be fair and would hinder the parish reaching its goal. A principle of this campaign is each according to their blessings, equal sacrifice, not equal gifts. Gift requests are based on past giving to the parish. All parishioners will be asked to give to *We Are the Body of Christ*, but not everyone will be able to give at the same level.

**Q. Will my parish benefit from the *We Are the Body of Christ* campaign?**

**A.** All parishes benefit from shared ministries funded through the *We Are the Body of Christ* campaign. Also, parishes receive 20 percent of their parishioners' gifts up to the parish goal.

**Q. Why encourage pledges?**

**A.** *We Are the Body of Christ* encourages pledges to allow donors to give more than they could with one-time gifts. Donors who pledge usually make gifts four-to-five times larger than those who make one-time gifts.

**Q. How can I be sure my campaign gift goes towards the needs outlined in the case for support?**

**A.** The parish has a moral and legal obligation to restrict the use of campaign funds for the needs stated in the case for support. Funds raised in the campaign will be used only as described.

**Q. Why is each donor asked to complete a pledge card?**

**A.** Each donor is asked to complete a pledge card, so their gift will be appropriately recorded and acknowledged. The pledge card is an indication of good faith, an intent to meet the terms of the gift, and is not legally binding.



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## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (continuation)

**Q. How will pledges be collected?**

**A.** Completed pledge cards will be collected at the parish and sent in for accountability and processing. Credit card payments and automatic withdrawal payments from bank accounts (EFT) are highly encouraged. Electronic payments reduce costs and save resources, preserving funding for ministries. Pledge reminders will be mailed for payments by check.

**Q. Why is my pledge going to the Diocese and not the parish? Why make my check payable to *We Are the Body of Christ*?**

**A.** We are strategically combining our campaign *We Are the Body of Christ* and partnered with the Diocese to manage pledge fulfillment at no additional cost. This partnership ensures the parish will receive regular payments as pledges are fulfilled while the Diocese handles the associated operations, paperwork and correspondence for the parish.

**Q. Why request an initial payment? Is it required?**

**A.** *We Are the Body of Christ* asks for an initial payment to begin a pledge because it helps increase the cash reserves for the projects. Many donors prefer to begin their pledges immediately. Some will want to give more than the requested 10%. However, an initial payment of 10% is not required.

**Q. What if I am unable to fulfill my original pledge amount?**

**A.** Unanticipated events or situations can occur. If financial circumstances change, a donor may contact the Diocese to adjust, pause, or cancel their pledge.

**Q. To whom should checks be made payable?**

**A.** Checks for the campaign should be made payable to *We Are the Body of Christ*.

**Q. Are gifts of stock and planned gifts accepted?**

**A.** Donors may give appreciated securities, bequests and other deferred gifts. Donors considering such gifts should contact the diocesan Office of Stewardship and Development.

**Q. Are gifts to *We Are the Body of Christ* tax-deductible?**

**A.** All campaign gifts are tax-deductible to the extent permitted by law. Donors should consult a tax professional if they have any questions about the tax treatment of their contributions.

**Q. How was each parish goal established for the *We Are the Body of Christ* campaign?**

**A.** Each parish goal is 140% of the previous 2-year average offertory rounded to the nearest \$5,000.

**Q. Is the parish campaign goal an assessment?**

**A.** The parish campaign goal is not an assessment. Every parish is asked to make a good faith effort to implement the campaign according to the campaign plan.

**Q. How is *We Are the Body of Christ* different from the Annual Appeal (*Progress*)?**

**A.** The Annual Catholic Appeal (*Progress*) is a vital source of annual funding for many programs and ministries of the Diocese. The *We Are the Body of Christ* campaign seeks to raise funds for specific needs including: Seminarian and Diaconate Formation and Education, Catholic Schools and Religious Formation, and Parish emergency needs and expansion. Some campaign funds will be placed into permanent endowments to provide lasting sources of revenue for specific ministries.