



A Circle of Love and Support: Parish and School Stewardship

3.25.2020

“Love one another as I have loved you.” John 15:12

We are living in extraordinary times that are challenging us at the very core of our being. How do we “love one another as Jesus has loved us?” How do we walk with the people of our parishes and schools to offer prayers, love and support, just as Jesus does? We are all called to *Love all God’s People, All the Time*. And as friends and followers of Jesus, we are committed to walk with all of you on the frontlines in our parishes and schools during this time of uncertainty. Know you are fully supported and loved so you are able to accompany the parishioners, neighbors and the communities you serve. We need each other now more than ever before.

Our parishioners, neighbors and the communities we serve, sparked by the prayers, love and support we will show them are key to weathering the uncharted path ahead. The time is now to build bridges that bring back to us, in our parishes and schools, ten-fold the gifts that have been given to us as families and individuals. Our faithful will return to us what is needed when they understand our continued commitment to serve. Our time of need is now and our call for sustained and even additional financial support is vital!

Thoughts to consider when building communication bridges, spiritual accompaniment and sustained financial support during these extraordinary times:

- Lead with prayer, love and support: Loving all God’s People All the Time
- Concern for our most vulnerable (the sick, home bound, elderly, young families)
- Care for all (possible unemployment and income loss, children at home, loneliness)
- In the spirit of Lent practicing prayer, sacrifice and almsgiving
- Advancing the outreach of our parish and our Church
- Acknowledging our dependence on weekly giving to minister and maintain our staff

- Grateful for continued financial support to those who are giving
- Need to mail in or drop of weekly offertory donations or transition to online giving
- Initiating a calling tree to phone each parishioners home to see how they are doing, what are their concerns and prayer requests? [Sample Script 1](#) – [Sample Script 2](#)

Examples for building communication bridges, spiritual accompaniment and sustained financial support during these extraordinary times:

- Through the relational ministry of the live streaming or radio broadcasting of the daily/Sunday Masses <https://www.thecompassnews.org/virtual-event-calendar/>

To have your livestream event listed, please do the following:

1. E-mail: lmullins@gbdioc.org and jkurowski@gbdioc.org
2. Subject: Virtual Print & Online Calendar
3. Include the following in the e-mail:

Event Name:

Date:

Time:

LIVE Link (include direct link to the page – for instance, for FB, do include link to that FB page and name of the group)

To assist The Compass staff with questions, contact name with phone & e-mail

- By posting videos of love and support that connect relationally with parishioners and people in the community www.gbdioc.org/video
- By Writing a letter to all of the parishioners with a message of relational love and support [Sample Letter 1](#) – [Sample Letter 2](#)

Keys to Parish Offertory during Covid-19

There are several options for parishes to consider around offertory. Today, parishioners give in several ways: In-pew, Mailing of checks, Credit Card/Debit Cards, Electronic Fund Transfer (EFT), Online Giving, IRA, Stock and other ways.

In the short-term the Catholic Foundation would recommend parishes consider a two-fold approach of establishing an online giving presence and a communication plan to encourage families to support their parish offertory. The offertory communication plan will be coming forward soon. Below are several options for parishes that do not have online giving.

Online Giving Solutions

i. Stripe - <https://stripe.com/>

Stripe is an online giving processor of credit card payments for non-profits and for-profits. Their fees are 2.9% and \$.30 per transaction. They do have the ability to integrate with Gabriel Software. IT has some instructions for setting up Stripe within Gabriel. This solution is only able to process credit card or debit card giving. Stripe can be up and running in a day or two.

ii. Vanco Services - <https://www.vancopayments.com/egiving>

Vanco Services provides online payment solutions for thousands of businesses. Vanco is used by more than 20,000 Churches. Vanco would require a separate contract with them to begin services. They do have the ability to integrate with Gabriel Software. For churches with less than \$20,000 in donations per month there would be a monthly fee of \$10 and credit card rate would be 2.75% + \$.45/transaction and for ACH processing it costs 1% + \$.45/transaction. Vanco Services can be up and running in 5-10 days.

iii. GiveCentral - <https://www.givecentral.org/>

GiveCentral is a multi-platform online donation tool that helps small to mid-size nonprofits. They provide many different online services from online giving to email marketing. They also are able to provide tools to transition families to online giving. GiveCentral is working on an API with Gabriel Software. GiveCentral works with many parishes across the United States. They would have a separate contract. It would be \$75 as a one-time setup fee, \$33 a month for services and a credit card fee. GiveCentral can be up and running in 5-10 days.

iv. WeShare (LPI) - <https://www.4lpi.com/solutions/church-online-giving/>

WeShare is part of Liturgical Press. Next week they will be able to integrate with Gabriel Software.

Parishes will have to contract with most of these services.

The Catholic Foundation is also working on a Universal Online Giving Page for all parishes. This solution would be an opportunity for a family to give to any parish in the Diocese. This option is being used in [Chicago](#), [San Antonio](#) and Milwaukee, Lacrosse and Madison are working toward

this solution. A key benefit is a common page to be promoted for streaming services of Masses and other faith discussions. We anticipate this solution to be in place by Friday.

For more information contact Josh Diedrich jdiedrich@gbdioc.org or Roy Verstegen rverstegen@gbdioc.org from IT can provide support to parishes that have questions.