



Office of the Bishop
Diocese of Providence
One Cathedral Square
Providence, RI 02903
Phone: (401) 278-4546

July 10, 2013

Dear Parishioners,

Rev. Roger C. Gagne
St. Peter Rectory
350 Fair St
Warwick, RI 02888-3719

The increased offertory campaign, as requested and explained by Bishop Tobin in the attached letter will take place at St. Peters in October. This will be a low-key campaign. It is my hope that this campaign will help us reflect on how we share the treasure God has given us to share with others. More information will be forthcoming in October. May God, who began the good work of this parish 80th years ago see it to completion. Be assured of a remembrance in all my prayers. *J. Home*

Dear Father Gagne:

I am writing to announce a very important financial initiative that, I believe, will be of enormous benefit for the parishes of the Diocese of Providence as well as our diocesan Church, namely, a **diocesan-wide increased offertory giving program**.

For most of the last two decades our diocese has experienced a steady growth in our parish income. However, beginning in 2009 with the economic downturn, this positive trend reversed itself and has remained flat since 2010. There are some signs that this trend could continue to decrease in the near future causing hardship and difficulties in our parishes. To reverse this multi-year flat growth rate in offertory income, discussions and consultations were held concerning a diocesan-wide increased offertory giving program to benefit every parish in the diocese.

The Council of Priests, the Diocesan Finance Council, the Deans of the Diocese, and numerous pastors have strongly supported moving forward with this initiative. I have accepted their recommendation and am pleased to announce that an increased offertory program will be offered to the parishes of the diocese over the next 18 months beginning August 2013. Each parish will have an opportunity to participate in either a Fall 2013 or Fall 2014 block. Parishes that have conducted an increased giving program recently, or parishes with other special circumstances will be exempted from participating. The Office of Planning and Financial Services and the Office of Stewardship and Development will work with any parish that would like assistance in determining the timing of their programs.

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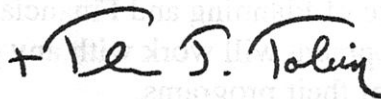
After an open bidding process and careful deliberations we have retained the services of The Cunneen Company, a widely respected national Catholic stewardship organization to direct and conduct our efforts in this important project. The Cunneen Company is known to many of our parishes and has a strong record of performance here in Providence. Parishes wishing to use another company to assist them in this effort may do so only after consulting with the Office for Planning and Finance and the Office of Stewardship and Development.

As a benefit resulting from the competitive bidding process that was undertaken, the cost to an individual parish will be significantly less than it would be if you were to contract on your own. As an additional benefit, the Diocese will also pay half the fee for this program. The parish cost will be only \$3.75 per household. The reduced fee plus the Cunneen guarantee of success makes this offertory campaign a prudent parish investment. Many parishes that have conducted an increased offertory program have experienced comprehensive stewardship enrichment plus increased and sustained offertory enhancement of twenty to thirty percent.

It is my hope that every parish community will take advantage of this important opportunity. This campaign will provide us with a teaching opportunity about Stewardship, increase the amount of funds in the parish for vital ministries, and assist you in meeting your financial obligations and needs. Over the next few weeks, representatives from the Office of Stewardship and Development and the Cunneen Company will invite you to a regional meeting where you can work out the details of your program and ask any questions you may have.

I know that I can count on your whole-hearted cooperation and enthusiastic support for this new program. Please understand that it is very important for the financial stability of our Church. I pray that through the intercession of our Blessed Mother, Our Lady of Providence, Almighty God will bless this initiative and bring it to a successful conclusion.

Sincerely yours,



Most Rev. Thomas J. Tobin, D.D.
Bishop of Providence