

Second and Special Collection Descriptions – Archdiocese of Louisville

Opportunities for Life: Taken up on the Sunday in the week of the anniversary of Roe versus Wade (January 22), this collection supports Opportunities for Life, a statewide, non-profit organization founded by the four dioceses in Kentucky. This organization offers non-judgmental and confidential support to women experiencing unplanned pregnancies by helping them to recognize the many opportunities and resources that exist for those who choose life. Through a toll-free number (1-800-822-5824) that is available to callers 24 hours and seven days a week, consultants at Opportunities for Life help women find answers to many questions about abortion, pregnancy tests, STDs, adoption, parenting, medical referrals, housing, and other issues. For more information, see www.opportunitiesforlife.org. (Free-will offering.)

Black and Indian Mission: Taken up on the first Sunday in Lent, the Black and Indian Mission collection supports evangelization efforts among the African Americans, Native Americans, Eskimo and Aleut communities. Specific initiatives include the formation of African American and Native American seminarians and the distribution of catechetical materials that serve as resources for a solid Catholic education in Black and Indian Catholic mission schools. Donations to this collection also have supported the efforts of the Archdiocese of Louisville's Office of Multicultural Ministry. For more information, see www.blackandindianmission.org. (Free-will offering.)

Catholic Relief Services: Taken up on the fourth Sunday in Lent, the collection for Catholic Relief Services funds six Catholic agencies that serve around the world through humanitarian aid, resettling displaced individuals and families, and advocating on behalf of victims. Agencies supported include Catholic Relief Services, the USCCB Department of Migration and Refugee Services, the Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc., the USCCB Department of Justice, Peace, and Human Development, the Holy Father's Relief Fund, and the USCCB Secretariat of Cultural Diversity in the World. For more information on the Catholic Relief Services Collection and the organizations it supports, please visit www.usccb.org (search "Catholic Relief Services Collection"). (Recommend minimum tithe of 15% of the average weekend collection.)

Rice Bowl: Taken up on Holy Thursday, the Rice Bowl collection is Catholic Relief Services' Lenten faith-in-action program for parishes, schools and families. The program invites Catholics to live in solidarity with our poorest and most vulnerable brothers and sisters through the three Lenten pillars of praying, fasting, and almsgiving. Participants journey throughout the forty days of Lent with the daily reflections included in the Lenten Calendar, offering small, suggested sacrificial gifts to fill their Rice Bowls as they read and watch Stories of Hope from individuals and communities whose lives have been changed by CRS Rice Bowl contributions. For more information, go to www.csricebowl.org. (Free-will offering.)

Holy Land: Taken up on Good Friday, the Holy Land collection supports Christians and Holy Places in the Holy Land. The Committee for the Oriental Churches, to which Archbishop Kurtz has recently been named, is responsible for administering the funds collected. Archbishop Kurtz reminds us that the pontifical Holy Land Collection offers a way for parishioners to become witnesses of peace. Franciscans and others who live in the Holy Land are housing and feeding the poor, providing religious formation, maintaining shrines and parishes, and conducting pastoral ministries. For more information, go to www.MyFranciscan.org. (Total collection)

Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception: Taken up the weekend of May 13-14 for 2017 only. All parishes are asked to participate in this special collection, which will assist with efforts to complete work at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, specifically the Trinity Dome, which is the central and largest dome of the National Shrine. The mosaic that will adorn the dome will depict The Most Holy Trinity, the Blessed Virgin Mary, and a procession of saints, all of whom have an association with the United States and the National Shrine. The Basilica is our national Cathedral and serves as a place of worship, pilgrimage, evangelization and reconciliation. For more information, go to <https://www.trinitydome.org/>. (Free-will offering.)

Catholic World Missions: Taken up on Pentecost Sunday, this collection funds pastoral and evangelizing programs for the poorest faith communities, here and abroad, through the Society for the Propagation of the Faith and the Catholic Near East Welfare Association. Contributions help establish new parishes and missions, train and support lay catechists, and provide many other ministries and programs. For more information, please see www.onefamilymission.org. (If Pentecost falls on the same Sunday as the Crusade collection, the World Mission collection will be taken up the Sunday before Crusade weekend. Recommend a minimum tithe of 15% of average weekend collection.)

Peter's Pence: Taken up the third Sunday in August, this collection supports efforts of our Holy Father in areas where the Church struggles to be a visible sign of charity. This includes poor dioceses where many are dependent on the Church for social and pastoral support; regions where Catholics are persecuted for their faith; and nations overloaded with refugees and victims of war and natural disasters. This collection provides the Holy Father with the means to respond to those suffering as a result of war, oppression, natural disaster, and disease. For more information, see <http://www.usccb.org/catholic-giving/opportunities-for-giving/peters-pence/>. (Recommend a minimum tithe of 15% of average weekend collection.)

Catholic Higher Education: Taken up the third Sunday in September, this collection supports Catholic higher education in the Archdiocese and beyond. The specific recipients are Bellarmine University, Catholic University of America, and Spalding University. Funds collected allow students to attend a Catholic university who otherwise might be deprived of this opportunity and support the mission of these universities. (Strongly recommend a minimum tithe of 20% of average weekend collection.)

Collection for the Military Services: This collection is taken up every three years on the Sunday nearest Veteran's Day (November 1) or some other day the parish deems appropriate. This collection supports the Archdiocese for the Military Services (AMS), which takes care of Catholics who are serving our country in the military, including those stationed at Fort Knox, and provides pastoral care for more than 1.8 million men, women, and children. While the salaries and retirement benefits of Catholic military chaplains are paid by the U.S. Government, the AMS gets no funding from the government or the military to support its many programs and services. (Free-will offering.)

Catholic Campaign for Human Development: Taken up the Sunday before Thanksgiving, the Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD) supports works of charity and justice in a manner consistent with Catholic teaching by funding community groups whose goals are to solve problems and change policies that keep individuals in poverty. Collection proceeds provide access to invaluable resources for those in poverty and make positive strides in helping those in poverty help themselves. Twenty-five percent of CCHD donations remain at home and serve projects in the Archdiocese. For more information, see <http://www.usccb.org/about/catholic-campaign-for-human-development/>. (Free-will offering.)

Retired Religious: Taken up the second Sunday in December, this collection benefits some 34,000 senior sisters, brothers, and religious order priests. Most elder religious worked for years for small stipends, leaving a substantial gap in retirement savings. With the ever-rising cost of health care and the increase in the number of those needing care, many religious communities now struggle to provide for their senior members. The Retirement Fund for Religious offers vital financial assistance to help meet day-to-day needs for prescription medications, nursing care, and more. For more information, see www.retiredreligious.org. (Free-will offering.)

Archdiocesan Charities: Taken up the fourth Sunday in December, this collection supports the work of Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Louisville. Donations fund many important social ministries of the Archdiocese including Sister Visitor Center, the mother and infant care program, family support services, prison ministry, senior social services, and the migration and refugee program. For more information, see www.cclou.org. (Must equal 50% of the average weekend collection.)

Non-Archdiocesan Collection:

Crusade for Children: Taken up the first full weekend in June, Catholic parishes support the community-wide collection for the Crusade for Children through free-will offerings at parishes. The Crusade for Children returns 100 percent of all donations to organizations that serve special needs children in all 120 Kentucky counties and more than 50 southern Indiana counties. For more information, see www.crusadeforchildren.org. (Free-will offering.)