

St. Joseph's Tithing Outreach Program Enters Its Sixth Year

Our parish once again will make grants to worthy charitable organizations, and all parishioners are invited to nominate one or more charities that you think deserve consideration.

You might recall that our Tithing Outreach program was introduced in January, 2012. Since that time our parish's Tithing Outreach committee has awarded grants totaling approximately \$755,000 to several dozen different charities in the first five years of this program.

Our parish has pledged to give 5% of its income (Sunday revenues*) to various charitable organizations within and beyond St. Charles County. Many of our brothers and sisters are poor and need financial help, and, as a loving Catholic community, we are committed to reaching out to as many of them as possible.

If you would like a specific charitable organization to be considered for our tithing program for the fiscal year July 1, 2017, through June 30, 2018, please inform that charity of our program and provide the appropriate contact at the charity with a Tithing Outreach application form. That form is available at the parish office or on the parish web site at stjoecot.org. All organizations requesting funds must have a St. Joseph-Cottleville parishioner sponsoring them.

In determining which organizations will receive grants, The Tithing Outreach committee will give highest priority to those charities that serve the poor, that are locally based, and that have a demonstrable, immediate financial need. National organizations are not eligible.

Depending on the number of requests, please be advised that we might not be able to donate money, or at least the requested amount, to every charitable group requesting a gift. Also, the charity can be religious or secular, but in either case the charity's philosophy must be consistent with Catholic teaching. The money awarded must be used for services for the charity's beneficiaries and must not be used to hire employees or increase the compensation of the charity's existing employees or pay for any other administrative/overhead costs. The organization must be a 501(c)(3) charity and not a for-profit company.

St. Joseph parish organizations are not eligible for this program. In addition, organizations that are connected to our parish, such as the Boy Scouts, the Girl Scouts, and the Knights of Columbus, are not eligible.

St. Joseph's sixth annual Tithing Outreach program will be based on our parish's fiscal year of July 1, 2017, through June 30, 2018. Applications will be accepted beginning in January, 2015, and must be received by the Parish Finance Council by June 30, 2017. The Finance Council's Tithing Outreach committee will review the applications in July, 2017, and gifts will be announced by August 15, 2017.

Charities that received gifts in the five previous fiscal years will not automatically receive gifts in the 2017-2018 fiscal year. Those charities must reapply for gifts in the 2017-2018 fiscal year.

Incidentally, St. Joseph parish annually subsidizes our elementary school and our parish school of religion by giving those organizations approximately \$1,000,000. That, along with the 5% Tithing Outreach program, more than fulfills God's command for us to donate 10% of our income.

If you have any questions, please call Mark Forhan, the head of the Finance Council's Tithing Outreach program, at 314-303-0365.

*Sunday revenues consist of unrestricted Sunday offerings and parishioner contributions eligible for corporate matching gifts.