

**Diocese of Rockford**  
Stewardship and the Assessment System  
Approved on May 1, 1998  
by Bishop Thomas Doran  
Updated March 2009

**Parish Tithe**

**I. Basic definitions and observations**

The *Parish tithe* is the practice of designating a portion of the Sunday collection to be given as a gift in the name of the parish to a diocesan, community, national or world-wide charity. Parishes choose to institute this practice for three reasons: 1) to reach out and go beyond the parish's own needs in order to serve "the least among us"; 2) to evangelize, to give witness to others in wider community; and 3) to provide an example to the individual members to give to the parish in a planned, sacrificial and proportionate manner.

**II. Diocesan Policy Statements**

*Implementation of Stewardship Goal*

The parish contributes a portion of their Sunday offertory collection to worthy diocesan, community, regional, national and international programs.

*Statement of Diocesan Assessment Goal*

To encourage parishes to adopt the parish tithe and to assist diocesan and parish entities that are of special concern.

*Statement of Procedures*

- 1) Parish tithes up to 10% of Parish Ordinary Income will be deducted (by diocesan staff) from Ordinary Income before diocesan assessments are calculated.
- 2) When determining the recipients of the parish tithe, parish leaders are **strongly encouraged** to support the special concerns of the diocesan family. These include but not limited to:
  - \* United in Faith Endowment Funds
  - \* Poor parishes and schools needing special assistance
  - \* Diocesan Social Ministries for the following purposes:
    - Direct financial assistance to poor people
    - One-time capital needs
    - Past due debt
    - Specific short-term special programs - projects
  - \* Aurora Central Catholic High School Fund
  - \* General Diocesan Financial Liabilities
  - \* Other emergency needs as they arise and defined by the Diocesan Bishop

For more information, contact the Diocesan Director for Financial and Administrative Services.

- 3) When considering non-diocesan organizations, parish leaders must ensure that only legitimate not-for-profit organizations that uphold identifiable Catholic moral and social teachings are supported.
- 4) The parish will record these contributions under Apostolic Works line items: 47050-Direct Assistance or 47100-Donation in the Parish Uniform Accounting System.
- 5) Parish support to its own elementary, area high school, or payments of current or past-due diocesan assessments will not be considered as a deduction to Ordinary Income before diocesan assessments are calculated.