

Fruitful Harvest – Commonly Asked Questions

Where do my Fruitful Harvest Dollars go?

The money raised by Fruitful Harvest goes to a variety of programs designed to help members of the Church within our diocese and worldwide. More specifically, they go to:

- ◆ **Priest and Retired Priest's Benefits (not including priests at the Central Administration)**
- ◆ **Parish and other Programs in our Diocese**
- ◆ **National Collections**
- ◆ **National Organizations Donations**
- ◆ **Direct Overseas Assistance**
- ◆ **Diocesan Office benefiting Parishes and Vocations (these offices are at the Pastoral Center)**
- ◆ **All offices and their staff in the Bishop's Office are supported by Fruitful Harvest**

All employees in the Bishop's Office are paid by Fruitful Harvest dollars, with the exception of the Office for Communication, who produces the Catholic Moment newspaper; they are paid and supported by subscriptions and advertising.

Why should I give to Fruitful Harvest? Shouldn't I focus on giving to my parish?

The Catholic Church is a Tripartite Church made up of the Parish, the Local Church, and the Universal Church. Parishes, under the guidance of the Pastor, are funded by the weekly collection made every Sunday. The Local Church - or Diocese - is under the guidance of the Bishop and used to be funded by a tax on the money raised for the Parishes, which was given to the Parish with the intent that it was going to stay within the Parish. And the Universal Church, which is under the guidance of The Holy Father Pope Francis, receives its funding from the Local Church.

In 1983, it was realized that this method of taking "old money" from the parishes in order to fund the Local and Universal Church was strangling our Diocese. A year later, the first Fruitful Harvest Campaign was launched as a better way of funding the Local and Universal Church. This method of raising "new money" for the Diocese has proved effective and lets money raised by the Parish to stay within the Parish. As Catholics, we are not Congregationalists, we have a duty to provide for members of our Diocese and the worldwide Church. Fruitful Harvest allows us to do this.

How is a parish's Fruitful Harvest Goal Calculated?

A parish's goal is determined by its size and offertory income relative to the entire Local Church. The parish goal is determined by two criteria: 1) the number of families as a percentage of the total number of families in the Local Church, and 2) the parish offertory income as a percentage of the total offertory income of the Local Church. The two numbers are then applied in relation to the overall campaign goal, added, and divided by two to arrive at the parish goal for a particular campaign.

What does it mean when a parish "dovetails"?

A "dovetail" parish is one that has received permission to conduct a parish stewardship fundraising campaign concurrently with Fruitful Harvest. The parish drive is generally for capital needs associated with building construction or major debt reduction. To avoid the confusion and complexity of conducting two separate, simultaneous fundraising campaigns, the parish capital stewardship fundraising campaign is "dovetailed" into Fruitful Harvest. When a parish is granted "dovetail" status, it guarantees its full Fruitful Harvest goal and receives no rebate, but 100% of the overage is returned to the parish quarterly as soon as the parish goal has been reached.

What was done with the overage money returned to the parish from the previous Fruitful Harvest Campaigns?

The Fruitful Harvest Dovetail is the funding mechanism to retire debt from the capital improvement projects we all enjoy as a parish community at St. Alphonsus Liguori. The parish has quarterly mortgage payments of approximately \$35,000 from recent renovations to Weitzel Hall, Parish Hall, and the Parish Office Building. Dating back to previous campaigns, dovetail funds were used for major repairs, mandatory infrastructure improvements, and other building projects. Noticeable improvements were: the Holy Family statue, parking lot refinishing, athletic field backstop and flag pole, Weitzel Hall HVAC replacement (when it was our Hall).

What will be done with the overage money returned to the parish from Fruitful Harvest 2016?

Parish Leadership has engaged an Architect to assist with the planning and design of a new Activity Center located directly north of the church. The concept drawing shows one potential floor plan that gives planning efforts a place to start when visioning future needs. It is expected that funds from Fruitful Harvest 2016 and the two subsequent appeals will provide the funding necessary to embark on this capital project. The parish must have 70% of the project cost in the bank before we move from concept to construction documents. It's anticipated the facility could offer features such as a basketball/volleyball court for recreation, intramural activities, and possible CYO league practices in addition to space for multipurpose group exercise classes. This Activity Center's primary function would be to meet the growing needs of our parish ministries and parish sponsored events at St. Alphonsus Liguori Parish. Conceptually, the center could also be used to host community events and meetings as the wider community also continues to grow.

Where can I get accountability information?

A financial accounting for the Diocese is published each fall as an insert in The Catholic Moment and is mailed to every Catholic household in Northcentral Indiana. In addition the Fruitful Harvest staff and the members of the Bishop's Cabinet are also available to respond to your questions regarding the Campaign. Call 765-742-7000 or 800-617-7466 or write:

Fruitful Harvest Office
PO Box 1687
Lafayette, IN 47902-1687

Why does my parish have so many second collections? I thought Fruitful Harvest was supposed to take care of all special collections.

Seven special collections are funded through Fruitful Harvest: Indian and Black Missions, Holy Land, Peter's Pence, Latin America Cooperative, Catholic University, the Catholic Communications Campaign, and Home Missions. Several others are mandated which cannot be funded through Fruitful Harvest: Religious Retirement Fund, Propagation of the Faith, Catholic Overseas Relief, World Mission Sunday, and the Campaign for Human Development.