



From the Book of Joe:

February 18/19, 2012

Dear Parish family,

I have had several questions concerning second collections. There are NINE mandated second collections from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB). That means that the Bishops of the United States have chosen NINE Charities that they believe need the support of the entire Roman Church in America. What does that mean to you? It means that every Roman Catholic parish in the United States is required to take up a physical second collection NINE times every year. You may know these collections as: Black, Native American & Hispanic Appeal; Catholic Relief Services Appeal; Catholic Home Missions Appeal; Holy Father's (Peter's Pence); Emerging Churches/European Relief; Campaign for Human Development; World Mission Sunday; Catholic Communications Appeal; and Catholic Universities Appeal. The Diocese of Rochester requires us to take up a physical second collection annually for the Diocesan Missions Collection (this collection supports our diocesan religious sisters working in Chili and Brazil). Now as a parish we have decided to take up FOUR second collections: TWO for Catholic School Education and TWO for Buildings and Grounds (the funds from these FOUR collections **stay in our parish** and help offset our Catholic School assessment and the upkeep of our facilities). If my math is correct that makes a total of FOURTEEN physical second collections every year! This does not include any extra collections that the Bishop may invite us to support. For example, this past year we had an extra second collection for the people of Tioga County for Flood Relief as well as a second collection for Famine Relief in Africa. As your Pastor, I have the responsibility to insure that the NINE USCCB collections, the ONE Diocesan collection and FOUR Parish collections are actually physically taken up. I must provide the opportunity for you to participate in these collections; it is your prerogative to participate or not. In addition to the second collections, our Fundraising Committee also invites us to TWO annual Appeals—those collected funds usually go toward our Facilities. I hope that clarifies why we have so many second collections. I hope that our new collection process, which the Hospitality Ministers and I came up with, makes the Offertory time during our Liturgy a greater expression of our respect for your time and talents and treasure as well as a more prayerful experience.

God's Peace,