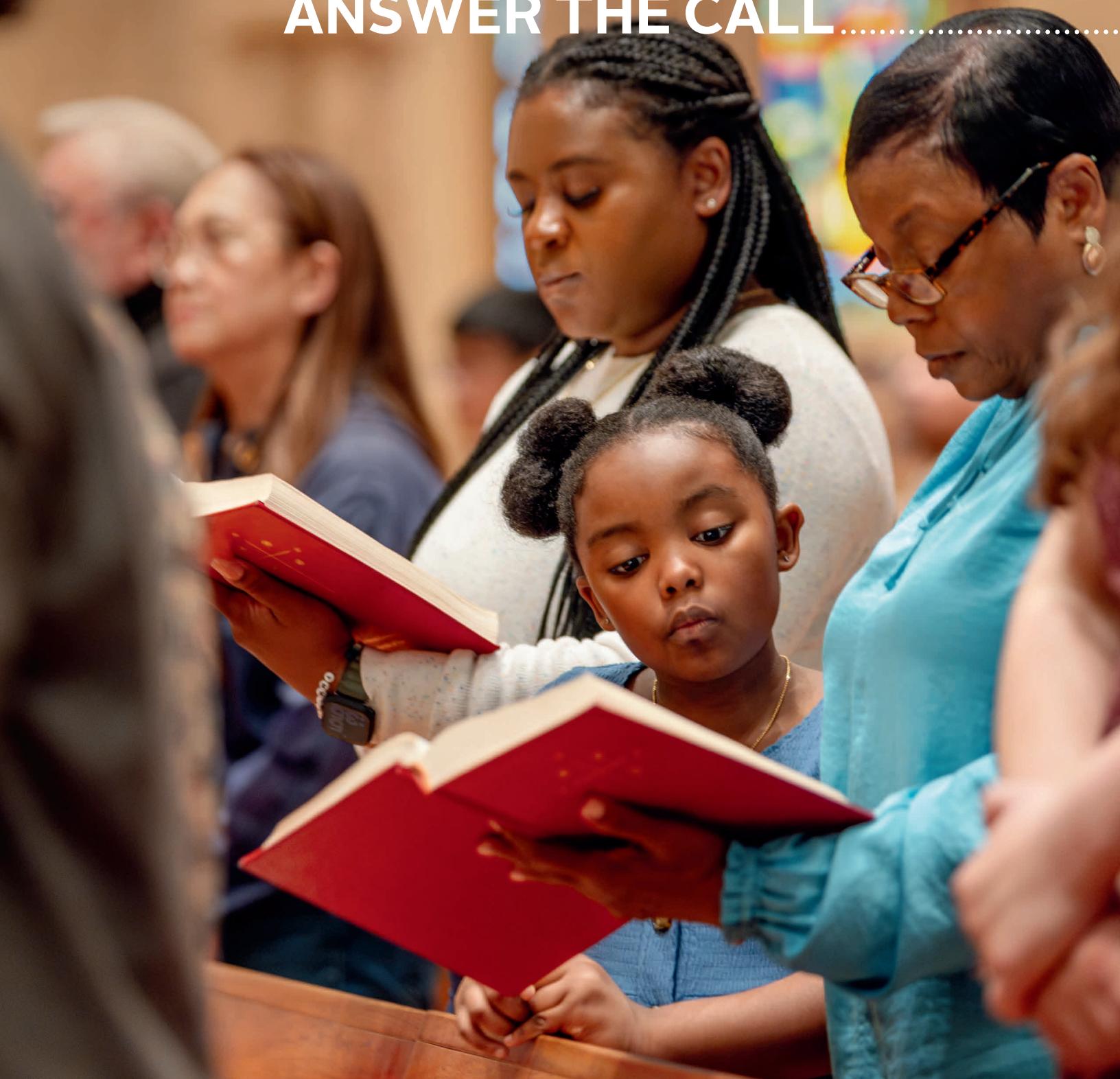


ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO



GENERATION
TO GENERATION:
ANSWER THE CALL





Pope Leo XIV 
@Pontifex

Faith is transmitted in the family together with life, from **generation to generation**. It is shared like food on the table and the heart's affections. This makes it a privileged place to encounter Jesus, who loves us and always wants what is good for us.



Pope Francis 
@Pontifex

This is the Church's essential task: to pray and to teach people to pray. To transmit the lamp of faith and the oil of **#prayer** from **generation to generation**.



In every age, Christ renews His Church.
He will do so again through us.

Throughout the history of the Church, our brothers and sisters have prayed, worked and sacrificed to build communities of faith.
They rose to the challenges of their day to renew the Church and the world around them.

We are now called to come together for the spiritual renewal of our parishes and our communities. The signs of the times indicate that restless hearts are searching for God. The majority of people in our younger generations did not grow up with active faith practice and have fundamental questions about purpose, meaning and the role of God in their lives. We can no longer wait for them to come to us but must seek them out.

Our Church has entered a “new missionary age,” a time when our parishes must intentionally become outward-facing in a way that will be new for all of us. We must seek out the spiritually hungry and invite them to a relationship with Jesus Christ and His Church.

We are called to pass our faith to the next generation of disciples who will continue to bring the light of Christ to the world.



Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

The Archdiocese of Chicago is at a pivotal moment in shaping the future of our local church. After the hard work of renewal over the past several years to ensure the sustainability and vitality of our parishes for future generations, our faith communities are well-positioned to press forward with renewed commitment and hope.

We accomplished a great deal with the support of so many, all the while meeting the challenges exacerbated by the pandemic. Today confident of God's grace, we are being called to take up with fresh energy the mission of Christ by reimagining our Catholic presence, ministries and service. Through rigorous evaluation and prayerful discernment, we have identified four critical areas for growth: igniting parish renewal, supporting priests, aiding disadvantaged communities, and investing in our parishes.

And so, we turn our attention to a new phase, funded by a comprehensive campaign called Generation to Generation: Answer the Call. Through the campaign, we aim to strengthen all our parishes in Cook and Lake counties, fostering faith by accompanying people where they are in their faith journeys, supporting and caring for our priests from formation to retirement, and serving the most vulnerable among us.

Your unwavering commitment and support are crucial to our success. Thank you for joining us on this journey. Together, we can ensure people of the Archdiocese of Chicago, today and for generations to come, are engaged disciples of Christ, sharing with others their faith and God's love to make a difference in our world.

Sincerely yours in Christ,



Archbishop of Chicago

Campaign Goal: \$300 million

CAMPAIGN ALLOCATIONS

Strengthen Local Parishes

\$100 million

- Local Parish Share of 50%

Spiritually Renew Our Parishes

\$60 million

- Renewal Support and Formation for Parishes: \$53 million
- Outreach for People Exploring Faith: \$7 million

Support Our Priests

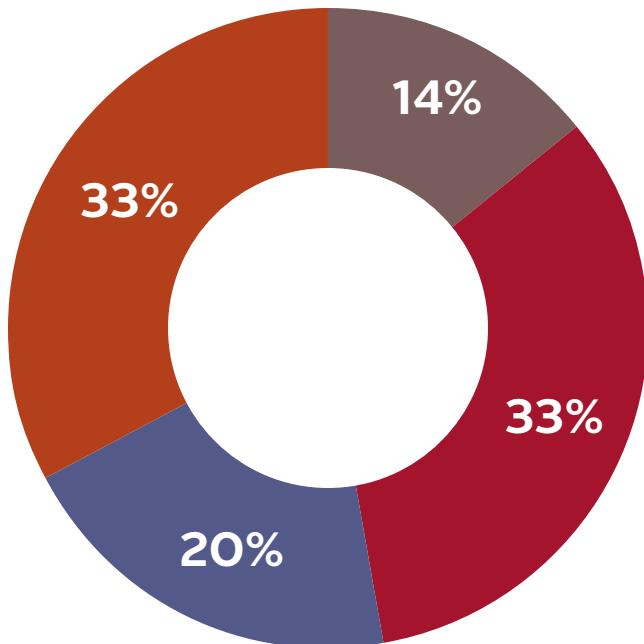
\$100 million

- Seminarian Education: \$14 million
- Priest Pastoral and Professional Development: \$23 million
- Health and Well-Being of Our Priests: \$63 million

Assist Vulnerable Communities

\$40 million

- Parish Vitality Fund: \$28 million
- Student Scholarships: \$12 million



Gifts to Generation to Generation will be held in separate, restricted accounts and used solely for the specific priorities set forth in this Generation to Generation campaign case statement as well as the relevant local parish case statement. The campaign goals are approximate and based on anticipated needs and contributions. Final distributions will be based on actual contributions and net of related campaign expenses and fees.

Answer the Call to:

Strengthen Local Parishes

\$100 million

Through a 50% share of funds raised at parishes, all parishes across the Archdiocese of Chicago will be able to fund critical mission, ministry and capital projects.

Spiritually Renew Our Parishes

\$60 million

We will support parishes as they refocus efforts to reach out to the less engaged and accompany them along the path of Christian discipleship. We will provide intensive parish renewal support, renewal formation and direct outreach to people exploring faith.

Support Our Priests

\$100 million

We will invest in seminarian education, pastoral and professional development, and caring for the health and well-being of active and retired priests.

Assist Vulnerable Communities

\$40 million

We will support our schools and parishes in economically challenged areas through Catholic school scholarships and the Parish Vitality Fund, which supports facility maintenance and ministries at parishes serving low-income communities.





Answer the Call to Strengthen Local Parishes

Total Goal: \$100 million

A major focus area for Generation to Generation: Answer the Call is providing parishes in the Archdiocese of Chicago with the opportunity to thrive for the next generation.

Every parish within the archdiocese will participate in this comprehensive effort. Each parish will retain 50% of the funds it raises in restricted accounts to be used solely to support local parish initiatives. Parishes will discern their local strategic and capital priorities to allocate these funds. In addition, parishes will retain 80% of funds raised over goal to be used for the designated purpose, which provides further incentive for parish communities to maximize the local impact of this significant campaign.

"The thing the church needs most today is the ability to heal wounds and to warm the hearts of the faithful.... I see the church as a field hospital after battle. It is useless to ask a seriously injured person if he has high cholesterol and about the level of his blood sugars! You have to heal his wounds. Then we can talk about everything else."

— Pope Francis





Answer the Call to Spiritually Renew Our Parishes

Total Goal: \$60 million

A relationship with Jesus Christ is the most relevant relationship we have in finding meaning in life. The light of Christ also changed history, imbuing society with conviction about the dignity of all human beings. These days, however, a majority of our younger generations did not grow up with active faith practice. Their restless hearts are searching for meaning. We can no longer wait for them to come to us. We must seek them out.

From our own early experience and from parishes around the world we have learned what it means to be an outward-facing parish for today's times. We have developed an approach to help ignite the spark of renewal in our parishes, guided by the Holy Spirit.

Key areas of parish focus include building up parish leaders, offering Christ-centered entry points, building capacity for individual faith accompaniment, establishing small faith communities within the parish, fostering many opportunities for spiritual encounter, and enabling faith witness. Parishes early in these efforts are witnessing encouraging signs.

Together, we are embarking on a generational journey that will require dedication, discernment and ongoing improvement. Jesus Christ is asking us to renew His Church. Together, we will answer His call for our times.

Our renewal efforts will focus on walking with people across a path of Christian discipleship and will play out in two ways:

- Renewal Support and Formation for Parishes: \$53 million
- Outreach for People Exploring Faith: \$7 million

RENEWAL SUPPORT AND FORMATION FOR PARISHES

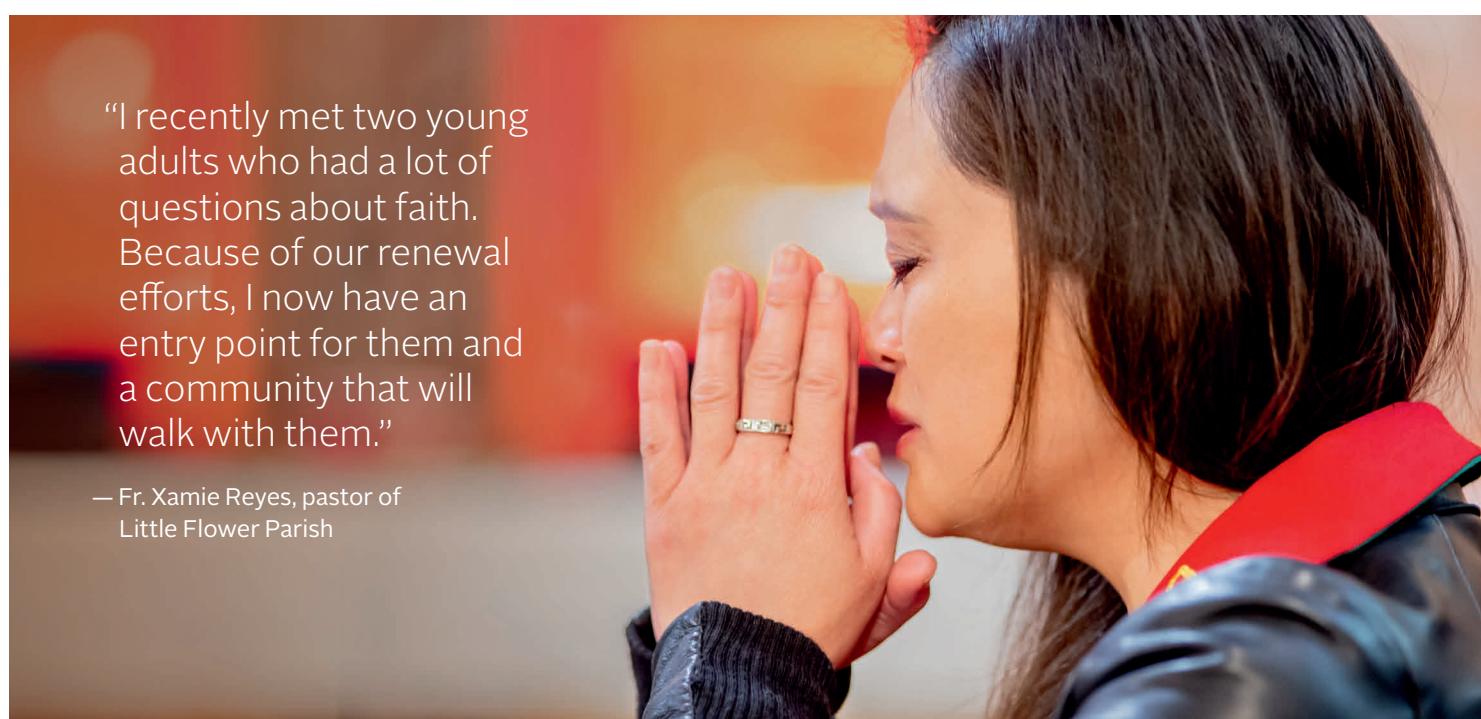
We are part of a global community of missionary disciples discerning how to invite people to a life with Jesus Christ and our Church for today's times. Our early efforts have helped us understand what it takes to ignite the spark of renewal in our parishes. We will bring together the gifts and zeal of our parishes and the expertise and learnings from our archdiocesan renewal team. Together, we will help parishes communicate the vision of renewal, set team priorities and new cultural practices, launch initial steps and build a parish leadership team.

We will provide support to parishes in two ways. First, we will offer intensive on-the-ground support through close partnerships between parishes and renewal team members. Second, we will launch learning programs with manageable and practical training workshops, enabling teams of pastors, staff and lay leaders to go back to their parishes to implement new ideas. These approaches will be tailored to different types of communities across the archdiocese. Funding for this initiative will seed our generational renewal journey as we continue to discern and learn for today's times.

OUTREACH FOR PEOPLE EXPLORING FAITH

We are creating tailored online workshops and curated content, hosted on a digital platform, that will invite those who are spiritually hungry to engage in spiritual exploration based on their own attitudes, preference and prior experiences.

Our efforts will start by fostering online support and community for these people exploring their spirituality, eventually connecting explorers with host parishes ready and able to receive and accompany them on their faith journeys.



"I recently met two young adults who had a lot of questions about faith. Because of our renewal efforts, I now have an entry point for them and a community that will walk with them."

— Fr. Xamie Reyes, pastor of Little Flower Parish



Answer the Call to Support Our Priests

Total Goal: \$100 million

While we are investing in lay leader formation to support our faith communities, our priests will always play a central role in leading our parishes and renewal efforts. The archdiocese is committed to providing excellent educational offerings and supporting priests from the beginning of their formation through their retirement.

Our comprehensive support for priests includes the following investments:

- Seminarian Education: \$14 million
- Priest Pastoral and Professional Development: \$23 million
- Caring for the Health and Well-Being of Our Priests: \$63 million

SEMINARIAN EDUCATION

We are grateful for the men who answer the call to give their lives in service to the Church as priests for our archdiocese. Our priests lead us in worship, instruct us in faith and accompany us through the most important times in our lives. The archdiocese sponsors the tuition for our Chicago seminarians, and this fund will help us educate and form our next generation of parish priests. Our seminarian education programs are focused on evangelization and skills for renewal, including an innovative approach to form priests in pastoral listening and accompaniment.

PRIEST PASTORAL AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

We have been making intentional efforts to accompany our priests lifelong through ongoing human, spiritual, intellectual and pastoral formation. Our priests are becoming pastors at an earlier age than prior generations while, at the same time, parish leadership has become more complex.

Support will include coaching and mentoring priests through individualized formation and development plans and trainings on team leadership, foundational preaching, evangelization basics and shared ownership for parish renewal. Through these investments, we commit to forming priests at every stage of their vocation, so they may be renewed and are supported to lead the renewal of their parishes.

CARING FOR THE HEALTH AND WELL-BEING OF OUR PRIESTS

Just as our priests lead and care for our Catholic community, our community needs to care and support our priests by providing them with adequate health care and a dignified retirement. Through the archdiocese, we provide health care and wellness support for all active and retired priests. In addition, significant funds will be required to support our priests through their retirement years, ensuring our retired priests can enjoy a dignified and healthy retirement.

The archdiocese supports our aging priests with dedicated nurse practitioners who have made a significant difference in the health and well-being of our priests. We are grateful to them and all those who care for our priests as they care for us.

“Being available for people during their spiritual needs helps me feel and be part of my parish community.”

— Fr. Luis Valerio Romero, Jesus, Shepherd of Souls Parish





Answer the Call to Assist Vulnerable Communities

Total Goal: \$40 million

The Archdiocese of Chicago oversees over 200 diverse parish communities in Cook and Lake counties. Many of these communities, while active and engaged, face financial strain. The Generation to Generation campaign launches the Parish Vitality Fund, which supports essential needs in low-income parishes. The campaign will also fund scholarships for Catholic school families, ensuring accessibility and continuity in education. With these initiatives, we aim to sustain vibrant parish life and educational opportunities, fostering faith and community engagement across our archdiocese.

Support for parish communities includes two initiatives:

- The **Parish Vitality Fund**, which provides essential support to parishes serving low-income communities: \$28 million
- The **Catholic School Scholarship Fund**, which provides tuition assistance to Catholic school students from low-income families: \$12 million



THE PARISH VITALITY FUND

Some parishes in the archdiocese serve communities without the financial means to fully fund a thriving parish. Most of these parishes have strong Mass attendance and robust community engagement but struggle to fund basic parish needs, emergency repairs or new ministries.

The Archdiocese of Chicago has launched the Parish Vitality Fund to provide support to these parishes, ensuring that every faithful Catholic in the archdiocese has an inspiring community in which to explore and deepen their faith, and every neighborhood has a vibrant place to encounter Christ.

“Thanks to scholarship support, my children will continue to receive a good, religious education. I also attended Catholic school, and religion is vital to our family.”

— Vanessa, Grateful Parent

THE CATHOLIC SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP FUND

We are deeply proud of our over 150 Catholic schools that serve more than 40,000 students. As one of the largest private school systems in our country, we remain committed to educating the whole child and preparing them to be faith-filled leaders in our world.

Scholarships ensure Catholic school education is accessible to every family. There is always more demand for scholarships than available supply, and the sunset of the Invest in Kids Tax Credit Scholarship program will present significant financial challenges for many Catholic school families. The archdiocese is steadfast in our commitment to ensuring Catholic school education is accessible to all families and that Catholic schools remain a central place of spiritual encounter.

HOW TO GIVE

ANSWER THE CALL

Pledges payable over five years will allow donors to consider more substantial commitments than are possible with one-time gifts. Donors who pledge may determine payment schedules to meet their own charitable or tax needs. Payments can be made by check, credit card, e-checks or gifts of stock. If you are able, please include an initial payment with your pledge. If you have general questions about giving to the campaign or wish to make a gift though an alternative method, please contact the archdiocese directly at 312.534.8500.

MATCHING GIFTS

Many companies have matching gift programs, enhancing employees' charitable contributions. Please contact your employer about its specific requirements and paperwork to attach to your pledge card. If you have questions regarding matching gifts, please call 312.534.7959.

QUALIFIED CHARITABLE DISTRIBUTION FROM IRA

Also known as a “charitable IRA rollover,” a qualified charitable distribution (QCD) allows individuals age 70½ or older to authorize their administrator to directly transfer funds annually from their individual retirement account (IRA) to qualified charities, tax-free. If you are age 73 or older, the amount you transfer can satisfy all or part of your required minimum distribution. If you have questions regarding QCDs, please contact 312.534.7959.



GIFTS OF SECURITIES

Gift of securities (stocks) will be accepted and should be delivered electronically to the archdiocese's broker. The archdiocese will liquidate the shares as soon as possible and credit the campaign with the net of the sale, minus any brokerage fees. Gift acknowledgements will reflect the stock name, number of shares and date of receipt. Donors must complete and submit a Letter of Intent to the archdiocese via an online form to identify the shares being transferred. Click on the Generation to Generation option and select the applicable parish, if any. If you have any questions regarding gifts of securities, please call 312.534.7461 for more information and assistance.

PLANNED GIFTS

Bequests, charitable gift annuities, and life insurance policies are just a few examples of options for making long term commitments to the church. If you are interested in planned giving, please call 312.534.5404.

In recognition of our shared responsibility to care for creation, the Archdiocese of Chicago promotes and encourages donors to sign up for online payments to reduce the cost and waste of sending monthly billing reminders though the mail. Sign up for online payments:

giving.archchicago.org/gentogen

Together, let's answer the call to build vibrant communities of faith.

Today, we face new challenges and opportunities for spiritual renewal. Let us embrace this moment as missionary disciples, sharing the life-giving message of God's love with those around us. **Together, let us pass on our faith to the next generation.**

Through our prayers, works, and sacrifices, we participate in Christ's ongoing renewal of His Church.



CAMPAIGN PRAYER

God of abundant and generous mercy,
we gratefully acknowledge the many gifts
you have given us across the years
from the sacrifice of generations before us.

And so, we confidently trust that you will walk
with us into the future.

We echo the words of the Blessed Virgin Mary:
truly, your mercy is from generation to generation.

Help us now to respond generously to your gifts,
as we support our Church in the Archdiocese of Chicago
and work to bring faith forward
for the generations that follow us.

By your grace and help, let our gifts be a blessing
for our children, our grandchildren,
and those who follow them.

Through Christ our Lord.



ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO



Stewardship and Development
835 North Rush Street
Chicago, IL 60611-2030
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To learn more about the campaign scan the
QR code below for more information.



.....GENERATION
TO GENERATION:
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