

Office of the Vicar General

## MEMORANDUM

**To:** All Pastors, Administrators, and Parish Business Managers

**From:** Fr. Todd Molinari, Vicar General

**Date:** October 2, 2025

**RE:** 2026 Second-Collection Schedule & Introduction of the Combined Collection Appeal

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Beginning in 2026, we will shift from today's crowded and fragmented second collection landscape to a more focused, high-impact approach: three major archdiocesan campaigns, down from a patchwork of 14+ collections. This streamlined model gives parishes more control over their weekends, clearer messaging to parishioners, and a stronger sense of shared mission across the archdiocese. This shift is designed to increase participation, simplify messaging, and strengthen our collective capacity to fund the ministries most vital to our mission to witness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. This new approach reflects the thoughtful recommendation of the Presbyteral Council, whose counsel played a key role in shaping this path forward.

## What's New

- All former national second collections will be bundled into one "Combined Collection Appeal" (with collections received online), replacing 14+ standalone collections.

Date	Campaign
<b>April 18-19</b> (In-pew on 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter)	<b>Archbishop's Catholic Appeal</b>
<b>July 12</b> (15 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time)	<b>Combined Collection Appeal (Digital Site)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Archdiocese of Military Services (every 3 years)</li><li>• Black &amp; Indian Mission Collection</li><li>• Catholic Communication Campaign</li><li>• Catholic Home Missions</li><li>• Catholic Relief Services</li></ul>

- Collection for the Catholic Campaign for Human Development
- Collection for the Church in Central & Eastern Europe
- Collection for the Church in Latin America
- Collection for the Holy Father/Peter's Pence
- Collection for the Holy Land
- Retirement Fund for Religious
- Solidarity Fund for the Church in Africa
- The Catholic University of America
- World Missions Sunday Collection

#### **September 26-27**

(In-pew on 26<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time / Priesthood Sunday)

#### **Seminarian Appeal**

#### **November 7-8**

(32<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time)

#### **Catholic Charities Appeal**

- **Disaster Relief** – Only when truly needed
- **Open (Non-Appeal) Weekends – Freedom with Prudence:** The weekends not reserved for the four archdiocesan appeals are intentionally left open so pastors can, when truly needed, introduce a one-off special collection for parish ministries, capital projects, or urgent local outreach.

Yet nature abhors a vacuum—and parishioners abhor collection fatigue—so please exercise restraint. Before adding a new basket, prayerfully run through these quick checkpoints:

1. **Mission Fit:** Does this ask clearly advance the parish's or archdiocese's pastoral priorities, or could it be funded through existing budgets?

2. **Urgency & Time-Bound Scope:** Is the need immediate and clearly limited in duration (e.g., a roof leak, a youth mission trip), or is it likely to morph into an annual expectation?
3. **Donor Experience:** How recently have parishioners been asked to give? Will this feel like one ask too many?
4. **Legacy Consideration:** Will the next pastor thank you for launching this collection, or feel hamstrung trying to sunset it later?
5. **Administrative Simplicity:** Can logistics (counting, accounting, forwarding) be handled without an undue burden on staff or volunteers?

If a prospective collection scores well on all five, proceed confidently; if not, consider alternative funding avenues or postponement. Better to have a few high-impact, well-communicated opportunities than a crowded calendar of “extra baskets.”

- **Mechanics of the Combined Collection Appeal (Donor-Directed Pass-Through):** Donors choose any or all national appeals. The Archdiocese forwards each gift in full to the selected appeal. No pooled pot: donor intent is honored dollar-for-dollar, eliminating questions about internal allocation formulas.

## Benefits to Parishes

- **Reclaim 10–12 Weekends for Mission Renewal**

Fewer second-collection weekends means pastors can preach, teach, sanctify and shepherd without juggling extra baskets—prime breathing room to roll out small-group evangelization, a new service initiative, or that long-deferred leadership retreat.
- **One Clear, Compelling Story**

Bundling appeals lets you weave every ask into the archdiocese’s fundamental mission: *“To witness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ.”* Parishioners hear a single, integrated story instead of 14+ one-off pleas.
- **Predictable Stewardship, Sustainable Mission**

With a stable annual calendar, giving levels even out. Parishes and the archdiocese can budget confidently—and invest in bold Mission Renewal priorities rather than scrambling for stop-gap funding.
- **Less Admin, More Ministry**

Slimmer print runs, shorter deposit logs, and simpler pulpit announcements free staff hours (and pastoral brain-space) for catechesis, hospitality, or that new discipleship pathway you’ve wanted to pilot.

- **Full Breadth of Catholic Witness, Zero Cherry-Picking**

Every USCCB-approved appeal is covered, so priests aren't forced to "play favorites," and parishioners see the Church's universal mission in one cohesive package.

## Administrative Updates

1. Each of the core in-pew appeals is now mandatory.
2. The Archbishop's Catholic appeal (ACA) and Seminarian Appeal should be remitted to: P.O. Box 15149, Portland, OR 97293. Please follow the instructions on the envelopes these collections provide.
3. The Catholic Charities Collection is handled by Catholic Charities and should be remitted to them directly at: Catholic Charities, 2740 SE Powell Blvd., #5, Portland, OR 97202.
4. These are the dates for the 2026 collections. We have remaining in 2025, the Seminarian Appeal on September 28th, collections for World Mission Sunday on October 19th, CCHD on November 16th, and Retirement Fund for Religious on December 14th, 2025.

If you have any other questions regarding these second collections, feel free to call my office, the Stewardship & Development Office, or Financial Services.