

# Thanksgiving for Generosity

~ Encouraging Giving by Offering Thanks ~  
November 16, 2022

*Offered by Episcopal Parish Network*

***Participants:***

**Rev. Charles Cloughen, Jr. Planned Giving Officer, Cathedral of the Incarnation,  
Baltimore, Maryland, Author of *One Minute Stewardship: Creative Ways to Talk  
about Money in Church***

**The Rev. Canon Suzanne M. Culhane, Canon for Stewardship, Episcopal Diocese  
of Long Island**

**Davey Gerhart, Executive Director , TENS, The Episcopal Network for Stewardship**

# THANKSGIVING: NOT JUST A DAY BUT A WAY OF LIFE

- ▶ **At The Offering:**
- ▶ **Use those few minutes to say “Thank You ,Thank You, Thank You” for a ministry and for the generosity that makes that ministry possible. No one ever left a church because they felt thanked and appreciated.**
- ▶ **Examples of Ministries to be thanked:**
- ▶ Altar Guild
- ▶ Acolytes
- ▶ Baptism
- ▶ Bible Study
- ▶ Campus Ministry
- ▶ Choir -Adult
- ▶ Choir -Children’s and Youth

► **More examples of ministries to be thanked:**

- Choir Director
- Clergy
- Confirmation Class
- Church School
- Church School Teachers
- Diocesan Ministries supported by your church's contribution
- Eucharistic Ministers
- Flower Guild
- Greeters
- Godly Play
- Homebound
- Hospitality Hour
- Legacy Society
- Outreach Ministries of your congregation
- Stewardship Committee
- Ushers
- Vestry
- Wardens



## An Event to Say, “Thank You!”--- *Thanksgiving Eve Gift of A Loaf of Bread*

- ▶ At the Thanksgiving Eve worship service give each family who attends a loaf of bread from the best bakery near your church.
- ▶ Families can sign up at a Sunday service or online on your church's website
- ▶ Each family receives a loaf of bread to be served at their Thanksgiving dinner or taken to the Thanksgiving dinner they are attending. The priest announces that the bread is a gift from [the name of your church].
- ▶ This becomes a great evangelism tool.
- ▶ Bless the bread at the offertory and have the altar guild hand each family a loaf as they leave the service.
- ▶ Have a few extra loaves for guests.

## Another Event to Say, “Thank you!”

The Legacy Society Recognized on *The Fourth Sunday of Lent - Laetare or Joyful or Refreshment Sunday*

- ▶ The names of the people who have remembered the church in their estate plans and have given their permission are printed in the Sunday bulletin with a statement of thanks. Some people will wish to remain anonymous. The number of anonymous members can be noted.
- ▶ A sheet cake from a great bakery is purchased by the church or by a donation and served at the hospitality hour following the service.
- ▶ During the offertory everyone is invited to share in this wonderful celebratory hospitality hour in honor of the members of the Legacy Society.

# Another Event to Say, “Thank you!”

## *Sundae Sunday*

- ▶ One Sunday in the summer provide ice cream sundaes to all who attend, declaring that the church is using this treat to thank them for the work they have done for the ministries of the church.
- ▶ This should occur after ALL services! Announcing it on a previous Sunday and/or on the church’s website may increase attendance that day.
- ▶ The priest can announce, “Your parent may have told you not to eat dessert before you’ve eaten your meal, but I’m suspending this rule today. Enjoy your ice cream!”
- ▶ Consider having some “no sugar added” ice cream or water ice for people with special dietary needs.

# Personal handwritten notes to say, “Thank you!”

- ▶ Writing personal notes is an incredibly effective way to thank people for their efforts in the various ministries of the church.
- ▶ And remember - No one ever left a church community because they felt thanked and appreciated!
- ▶ And now for our other presenters~~

