

St. Bridget's Catholic Church Tithing Guidelines

Background:

Each month St. Bridget's Parish gives away up to 2% of the adult offerings to the parish. The monies are distributed by the parish to help non-profit organizations or programs actualize the social justice mission of the Catholic Church and are targeted toward:

- **Charity Fund** – To help meet direct human needs and safeguard human dignity.
- **Social Justice Fund** – To help reduce the root causes of poverty and injustice.

How to Apply for Tithing Funds:

Non-profit organizations or programs interested in receiving monies can obtain a tithing application by calling the parish office (715-425-1879), picking one up at the parish office (211 East Division Street, River Falls, WI), or by going to the church website: stbridgetparish.org. Applications should be submitted to the parish office.

Who Decides How Monies are Allocated?

Applications for tithing monies are reviewed by the parish Social Justice Committee on a monthly basis (September-June). The committee will consider applications according to established parish criteria and will make recommendations to the Parish Council for final approval and disbursement of monies. Applicants will be notified by telephone after a decision is reached.

Our Mission:

St. Bridget's primarily funds non-profit organizations that have needs or programs related to the social justice mission of the Catholic Church. The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops articulated the broad principles of this mission in their 2001 document *Principles, Prophesy, and a Pastoral Response: An Overview of Modern Catholic Social Teaching*. In this document the USCCB outlined seven key areas of human needs that guide society toward peace and justice. St. Bridget's Parish seeks to fund organizations with needs or programs reflected in one or more of the seven areas identified by the Bishops listed below.

Criteria for Determining Applicant Eligibility for Tithing Funds:

The Social Justice Committee and Parish Council will consider the extent to which the request addresses the following:

- 1) Support and fosters the dignity of the human person:
 - Protects and nurtures life at all stages
 - Opposes forms of discrimination
- 2) Nurture family, community and participation in society:
 - Empowers people to take control of their lives
 - Community-based organizations and cooperatives
- 3) Safeguards basic human rights and responsibilities:
 - Right to life
 - Affordable housing

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- Adequate food and clothing
- Access to health care
- Educational needs
- Security needs
- Social Service needs
- Employment training and work

4) Serves the poor and vulnerable in society:

- Empowers the poor to take action to improve their lives
- Seeks to end the cycle of poverty

5) Protects the dignity and rights of workers:

- Fosters the idea of work as part of human dignity
- Protects safe working conditions
- Safeguards just wages
- Promotes freely formed unions

6) Builds solidarity between people in society of various:

- Countries
- Races
- Ethnic-groups
- Economic statuses
- Ideological perspectives

7) Fosters care for the environment as God's creation:

- Promotes responsible use of natural resources
- Protects the environment for future generations
- Supports renewable resources

Additional Considerations for Determining Eligibility to Receive Tithing Funds:

- 1) Organization is a registered non-profit 501(c) 3.
- 2) Organization multiplies its ministry by working in collaboration with other community groups.
- 3) Funds are generally not distributed to organizations directly connected to St. Bridget's unless the intended purpose extends to the broader community.
- 4) Frequency of requests and last tithes awarded.