

PRE-AUTHORIZED PAYMENT PLAN

Our parishes need regular committed support all year round.

Our pre-authorized payment plan through the Diocese has been in place since January 15, 2007 when we humbly began with 14 donors from Port Hope and 12 from Kinmount. Currently enrolment varies from five to 134 donors (over 400 in total) supporting the 14 churches in this way. An additional three parishes are in the process of converting from another system to the plan administered by the Diocese. Many parishioners find this service very convenient, especially meeting their personal needs of budgeting when receiving a monthly income.

In one parish analysis two years later, it showed donations from the 17 donors were up an average of 8% with not one decrease in donations. This increase certainly offset any expense for the program. You can create a reusable donor card to attract those who would not participate because others might criticize they were not donating each week. Place these cards for pickup at the church entrances.

You have probably all heard the old saying, "Give God what is right, not what is left!" Well, this method of giving allows the person to plan ahead and not end up shortchanging the church because there is only \$2 left for the last Sunday before payday when all the bills have been paid.

"What are your costs?" you might ask.

- \$ Each parish is responsible for a monthly fee of \$30.
- \$ Inquiries and corrections, when done through the diocese, are minimal and included in this fee.
- \$ Service charges and/or salary will be less for processing fewer coins and bills.

Who does the work?

- i) The parish/PFC should appoint a coordinator or staff member to process paperwork.
- ii) All data and changes are collected at the parish level.
- iii) All entries are processed at the chancery office.

How do you get started?

- A. Page 2 is a sample of the sign-up form.
- B. Contact the chancery office for other information.
- C. Print up the forms and get started in your parish.

Why does your parish benefit?

- 1. This allows easier and more accurate budgeting and planning for parish expenses and activities.
- 2. There are no additional training and staff costs to administer the program locally.
- 3. There is a reduced security risk as less cash is handled on the premises.
- 4. The privacy of donors is protected as ushers and money counters are not handling your envelope.
- 5. You may make regular donations for the other diocesan collections as well.
- 6. Parishioners who go south for the winter can continue their support of the home parish.
- 7. Parishioners who come north for the summer can support the parish year-round.

Where and when?

As members of your parish, it is in **your** best interest to promote this program.
Why not start this week?