



Bulletin from the Diocese of Santa Rosa



“Second Collections” - Essential to The Life of Our Catholic Church

July 2009

My Dear People,

Second Collections are a reality that is part of the life of the Church here and elsewhere. I know many pastors need second collections to respond to special needs in the parish. Other second collections support our commitment to our parish schools. There are two Diocesan second collections one to support our parish priests sick and in need and another to support our Diocesan seminarians. There are eight national collections and three collections that are taken world wide.

These collections give us a chance to support the works of the Church in our parishes, our diocese, in the United States and around the world. Once we know what our offerings support and how these dollars are spent, we learn how much the Church is doing for so many people.

The three universal collections that are taken up throughout the world are the collection for the charitable works of the Holy Father, the Propagation of the Faith on World Mission Sunday and the Good Friday collection for the Catholics in the Holy Land. We help our Holy Father in the many demands on his charity through this collection for the Holy Father. World Mission Sunday collection in October gives us the opportunity to support evangelization throughout the world. The young churches in Africa, Oceania, Asia and South American depend on these funds to grow and mature. Finally the Holy Land collection on Good Friday supports Catholic schools, orphanages, hospitals and parishes in the Holy Land where our brothers and sisters are under constant pressure to abandon the land of their birth.

There are three National Collections which support the Church in the United States. The Catholic Home Missions collection helps poor dioceses to maintain basic services for the people. The Black and Indian Missions collection supports evangelization of these groups throughout our country. And the Communication collection provides funds to impact the media with our Catholic message of hope. Our Diocese of Santa Rosa receives back funds from each of these collections. We depend on these grants to support our needed ministries.

Collections for the Church in Latin America, the Church in Central and Eastern Europe and Catholic Relief Services provide funds to support the ministry of the Church in areas where the Church is impoverished. Catholic Relief Services provides assistance to all people who suffer from natural disasters and man made conflicts. This collection is a sign of our solidarity with those in need throughout the world.

Finally there is a collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious which supports the retired sisters and brothers who labored long for our people without adequate compensation to provide for their care in retirement. It is an opportunity for us to thank these wonderful people who have built the Church in the United States.

Second collections might seem burdensome but they are essential to the life of the Church in the parish, the diocese, the country and throughout the world. I hope knowing the purpose for each collection will encourage us to support all of them generously.

Assuring you of my prayers, I am

Your Brother and Servant in the Lord,

Most Reverend Daniel F. Walsh
Bishop of Santa Rosa