

# Parish Offering of Letters

## Parish Offering of Letters

*A parish offering of letters is a great parish-wide action. Support for the offering of letters must be developed before initiating this activity. Use other resources in this packet to lay the groundwork for this action by educating parishioners first.*

### Laying the Groundwork

1. Educate parishioners by distributing the bulletin insert on the Called to the Common Good campaign. Ask one of the priests to speak about the common good or the campaign on Sunday (homily helpers are available). In addition, place the Called to the Common Good bulletin ad in the Sunday bulletin for several Sundays in a row.
2. Invite interested parishioners to meet after a Mass or some other appropriate time to discuss the campaign. Assess the level of parish interest at this time. If sufficient interest exists, ask for at least three volunteers to help with the actual offering of letters action.

### The Offering of Letters Action

1. Write a brief letter stating your agreement that as Catholics we are called to support the common good and that as Catholics we want to see issues addressed in such a way that they reflect a candidate's commitment to the common good. List some of the key issues you associate with the common good, using quotes from the US Bishop's letter on faithful citizenship. Prepare enough letters.
2. Pass out letters and pencils in pews before Mass or set-up a table after Mass.
3. Ask the presider to speak about Catholic social teaching and its articulation of the common good on the day you pass out the letters.
4. Collect the letters after Mass and have a table set up for more information after Mass on the campaign and some of the key issues.
5. Before the following Sunday, make a list of all the signers from all of the letters to help with future outreach work.
6. Bundle the letters and place them in something appropriate, such as a basket.
7. Bring the letters up at the offertory the following Sunday. Be sure that the presider mentions the letters and what is being done with them. Invite those interested to stay and discuss the campaign after Mass.

### Follow-Up

1. Get together a group (as many letter signers as possible) and arrange to visit the candidates in order to deliver the letters (make copies of the letters first so you have multiple copies for the various candidates) and your message.
2. Involve other parishes in the area by repeating the offering of letters, or arrange for several parishes to hold the offering on the same Sunday. Arrange for a joint meeting to deliver all the letters from several parishes at once.
3. Invite the media to your visits with candidates. Have someone be prepared to be a spokesperson.

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## Catholics Called to the Common Good

A PROJECT OF CATHOLICS IN ALLIANCE FOR THE COMMON GOOD AND PAX CHRISTI USA

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