

SAINT
MARY'S
PARISH

Stow Hill
Newport

Offertory
Promise
Campaign

1962



A Message from the Archbishop

Archbishop's House,
Whitchurch, Cardiff.



A unique photograph of His Grace the Archbishop of Cardiff, the Most Rev. J. Murphy with His Holiness Pope John XXIII.

DEAR FATHER LENANE AND PARISHIONERS OF ST. MARY'S,

It gives me great pleasure to write you a message of encouragement at the beginning of your Offertory Promise Campaign. Your parish has had a notable history of well over one hundred years, in which time it has accomplished great things for the honour and glory of God and the good of souls.

St. Mary's parish is a family within the Universal Church; it is OUR family – yours and mine. The members of the family have a spiritual relationship with each other, we are all one in Christ and have the same duty of knowing, loving and serving God.

Being one family, we occupy the same 'House' . . . the Parish Church, which is, primarily, the House of God, is our house also. It is the most important place on earth for every member of the parish family. We were carried to it as infants for baptism; we assist at the Sacrifice of the Mass within its sacred precincts, and there, too, we receive the Holy Sacraments. The most important events of our lives were enacted within its four walls.

When age or illness prevents us from leaving our homes, it is from that same Church our Divine Lord is brought by His priests, to console and strengthen us. Finally, when life's journey is ended we are once more carried to that dear Church for the last time. There, at our Requiem Mass, our friends and dear ones unite with the priest in offering to God on our behalf the infinite merit of the Sacrifice of Calvary. Truly it is God's House and ours. This is why we love our Church and why we should be filled with a holy zeal for its beauty.

The recent restoration and improvements in St. Mary's must be a source of joy and pride to you all, but the bill must be met, and it must be considerable. Maintenance and future developments also add to the burden, and all members of the parish family should bear their share according to their means. For this reason I am writing to you, asking you for your generous and willing co-operation in your Offertory Promise Campaign.

I give this Campaign my blessing, and I am confident it will be a great success.

Yours devotedly in Christ,

+ John
Archbishop of Cardiff

A Letter from Your Parish Priest

St. Mary's Presbytery,
Stow Hill,
Newport, Mon.

7th October, 1962.

MY DEAR PARISHIONERS,

By now you know something about the Offertory Promise Campaign which we have launched with the permission and blessing of His Grace the Archbishop. You will learn more about it in the next few days, and I am confident you will support it with enthusiasm.

The Campaign has many aspects which justify it and make it attractive, and I wish to stress one feature which I consider the most important, that is, the emphasis on the parish as a family. During my four years at St. Mary's, I have often spoken to you on this subject and, with sorrow, lamented the lack of this fundamental Christian spirit in our midst. Family spirit is founded on love: love of God and of one another. This is the very essence of Christ's teaching, and it was the hall-mark of the early Christian church. The pagans of that period recognized it and exclaimed 'How these Christians love one another'. The beloved disciple, John, never tired of exhorting his followers to 'love one another', it was his final message to them as he lay dying. A parish animated by this spirit is irresistible; a parish without it is dead. In a good family there is unity of purpose, loyalty to each other, and all work together for the common good. But we are no ordinary family, because Christ Himself is part of our family, we are all one in Him and He is in each one of us. My earnest prayer is that the first and most precious fruit of this Campaign may be a re-awakening of the family spirit amongst us, and a conscious realization in every parishioner of his duty towards his Church and his brethren in Christ.

I am convinced we are on the threshold of a great spiritual and social revival in St. Mary's Parish, and its realization is certain if we all pull together. Only by prayer and sacrifice can it be achieved, and this is within the ability of all, without exception. It is not just by accident or coincidence this Campaign is being launched at this moment. It is God's Will, and as such we must embrace it eagerly, with cheerfulness and a holy pride.

So, on behalf of the priests of the parish, Frs. Huyshe, McKernan, Hogan, Foley, Smith, and myself, we thank all who are actively working in this Campaign and urge all to play their part.

God bless you all.

A. J. Tom Renard



Clergy St. Mary's Newport, October 1962

What are OUR PARISH NEEDS?

A GENEROUS SACRIFICIAL SUNDAY OFFERING FROM ALL
IN RECEIPT OF INCOME

OUR NEEDS FOR THE NEXT THREE YEARS:—

UPKEEP OF PRESBYTERY AND CLERGY ..	£10,500
CHURCH AND INSTITUTE MAINTENANCE ..	£6,000
CHURCH RESTORATION	£12,000
SCHOOL LEVY	£6,000
REPAIRS, EXTENSIONS	£5,500
	<hr/>
	£40,000
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OUR OBJECTIVE IN THIS CAMPAIGN IS TO OBTAIN AT
LEAST £45,000 OVER THREE YEARS FROM DIRECT GIVING
IN THE SUNDAY OFFERING COLLECTION

IN ADDITION TO THE ABOVE—

WE HOPE THAT THE NEW CATHOLIC SOCIAL CENTRE
WILL BE COMPLETED IN THREE YEARS AT AN APPROXI-
MATE COST OF £100,000

Our PLAN to meet these needs

WHEN THE OFFERTORY PLAN COMMENCES ON SUNDAY,
28TH OCTOBER, FEAST OF CHRIST THE KING, WE SHALL
HAVE THE FOLLOWING COLLECTIONS EACH YEAR:—

- 51 SUNDAY OFFERINGS
- 1 EASTER SUNDAY OFFERING
- 1 CHRISTMAS DAY OFFERING
- 10 SPECIAL PAPAL AND DIOCESAN
(as ordered by Holy See and the Archbishop)

**N.B.—THERE WILL BE NO OTHER COLLECTIONS
NEITHER ON HOLYDAYS OF OBLIGATION
NOR AT BENEDICTION
AND NO SECOND COLLECTION FOR SCHOOLS**

IN THE PAST

WE HAD A TOTAL OF 312 COLLECTIONS PER YEAR

IN THE FUTURE

WE SHALL HAVE 62 COLLECTIONS PER YEAR

**ALL OUR CHURCH-GIVING WILL BE CENTRED AROUND
THE OFFERTORY OF THE MASS**

The MASS and Our Offering

IT IS IMPORTANT to remember that the offering of money has become part of the Mass itself. It is not by accident that the collection plate is passed around at the moment when the priest is offering to the Almighty Father the bread and wine that will become the Eucharist. There was a time when at that particular moment of the Mass the people walked up to the Altar and presented their gifts. They gave the wine for the Offertory or they brought the bread that was to be consecrated for their own Communion. The priest took these gifts from their hands and offered them to God in token of the fact that they, the people, wanted to have a part in the Mass and that the bread and wine were symbolic of their own hearts and souls, which they offered gladly to their Creator.

With the growth of the Church and the consequent big increase in congregations, this method of offering gifts became impractical. And so, around the eleventh century, the offering of money was substituted for the offering of bread and wine.

As the priest offers the bread and wine to God, the people place their gift of money in the collection plate. Clearly, that money is not a gift to the priest, nor is it merely a gift to the parish – it is a gift to God Himself.

It's OUR Responsibility!

IT IS TIME we realized more fully that the vocation of a priest is to help people save their souls; it was never intended that he also be a financial wizard and make £1 do the work of £4 or £5. Yet this is exactly what we have been making our priests do for years now. The time has arrived when we, the laity of this parish, must take upon ourselves the duty and responsibility of raising the money needed to run the parish.

All too frequently we are inclined to give much thought to what we have done in the past for the Church. We recall the sacrifices we may have made, the prayers we have offered, and the time and money we have spent . . . and perhaps we may feel that we have done our share. But let us not forget that the growth and work of the Church is continuing all the time. A bigger and better effort is required of each one of us *NOW*.

Up to now, few if any of us have made a sacrificial gift to God. We have been using the buildings provided by the toil and sweat of our predecessors. It is now necessary for us to drop our poor giving habits, and make up our minds to give sacrificially. God has placed this task in *our* hands.

Let us face the challenge with a firm determination to do our very best, and thus discover the wonderful feeling of happiness and personal satisfaction that comes when we know that we are giving our best to the Church.



OUR PARISH

★ One in Life ★ One in Aim ★ One in Effort

DO YOU SAY 'In MY family' or 'In OUR family'? Nearly always 'our'. Why? Because the family is a community. It has a oneness of its own. It has a life of its own. We belong to it and it belongs to us. And it exists for the well-being of all in the family.

One of them is father. He is the head and provider. But the well-being of the family does not depend on him alone. Father, mother, and children have to work together to build a happy home.

This is true of the family. It is also true of the parish – our parish.

The parish is the family of the Church. It is the unit for life and growth and well-being in Christ. Christ is the Head and Provider. Then why do we call the priest 'Father'?

Because Christ has told him to feed His flock. He acts with Christ's power.

Because Christ has told him to teach in His name. He speaks with Christ's authority.

Because, in fact, the priesthood of Christ works in him and through him for the parish.

But the Father is not the family. And the priest is not the parish. It is OUR parish. That is why we have to work together and give together for the well-being of all.

The family has to be fed with the life of the Sacraments. So we build a Church.

The family has to be educated in a Catholic atmosphere. So we build Schools.

The family has to have its place of recreation. So we build a Hall.

The family has to have a place where Father can live and where he can be available. So we build a Presbytery.

You can see over the page what all this involves in expense. The point here is that all this building and maintenance is FOR the parish and BY the parish.

It is OUR work and OUR responsibility just as it is OUR parish.

STEWARDSHIP and the PARISH

THE PARISH IS A FAMILY

WHAT MAKES a family really work well? It is, of course, the bond of love which unites its members.

Unless they learn that belonging to each other involves all sorts of sacrifice at every level of family life, the members will not pull their weight and the home will soon cease to be a centre of family-life. It will become more like a boarding-house which caters for the day-to-day needs of individuals but does not foster union among its members. Too often our parishes have become like spiritual boarding-houses.

THE FAMILY SPIRIT DEMANDS SACRIFICE

No community can keep together without a spirit of sacrifice.

Once parents cease to sacrifice themselves for their partners and children the family breaks up.

It is vitally important for the Church that the members of the parish-community should be willing to make sacrifices for each other.

SACRIFICE MEANS PLANNING AND SELF-GIVING

Our Redeemer planned His Sacrifice in every detail from all eternity. If we allow ourselves to be at the mercy of every whim and do not plan our gift of ourselves we shall soon find that we are not trying to please God. We are only pleasing ourselves. Planned giving means generous and worthy giving. Whatever we give – time, talents, money – means self-giving. If we don't give ourselves we don't give anything at all.

Since everything we have and are does not belong to us except on loan we are committed as stewards to render a strict account of our

★ TIME ★ TALENTS ★ MONEY

If we spend our **time** selfishly without a thought of the needs of the Church, without ever heeding the appeals that the Church makes for our time, we are being untrustworthy stewards of time.

If we do not give to the Church a share of our **talents** (physical, intellectual, artistic) but use them only for our own selfish enjoyment or for achieving a material and social standard of living, we are being untrustworthy stewards of talents.

If we spend our **money** selfishly, thinking erroneously that 'we can do as we like with what belongs to us'; if we think that God is pleased if we treat Him as a beggar whom we placate with the toss of a coin, we are being untrustworthy stewards of money.

If we say we love God and refuse Him our **TIME, TALENTS, and MONEY** – we are not deceiving Him; we are deceiving ourselves.

ALL GIVING IS THANKSGIVING.



THE OLD WAY

'TAKING UP A COLLECTION'

MANY CATHOLICS will agree, if they consider carefully the question as to why they put money into the plate in Church, that it is simply a habit going back to childhood. They have some idea of the Church's need of money, so they add their portion to the rest, all of which is embraced by the familiar term (with which they are more or less satisfied) 'taking up a collection'.

Yet, at the back of their minds (if they think about it a little further), there is a sense of duty to give to the Church because the Fifth Commandment of the Church says that we are to support our spiritual pastors.

FORGETFULNESS

Many adults will agree that they no longer remember everything which they learnt at school. It was at school, when not very old, that most Catholics first learnt the Commandments of the Church. All of us remember that we are commanded to hear Holy Mass on Sundays and on certain other days; we remember the laws of abstinence and fasting. We may regard these as very important commandments. But in one respect all the Commandments of the Church are of equal importance for us, and in the mind of the Church.

Many Catholics will agree that, inadvertently, they have forgotten that in the Catechism we are given two reasons for contributing to the support of the Church:

that God may be honoured, and His Kingdom on earth extended.

THE PLATE

When the plate comes round at the Offertory of the Mass, it is true of some of us that we fumble for a coin which we drop in the plate as we pass it to our neighbour. All too often the coin is the same as the one which we put in the plate on the Sunday before, and on Sundays in the months before, and in the years before. In fact, it may not have increased in value since we were at school, when we first started giving something at the Offertory of the Mass.

A GOOD HABIT BECAME A LESS GOOD HABIT

In most cases it is not poverty which compels a small offering; it is not lack of generosity; it is not a lack of goodwill. In the main, a small offering is the result of **THOUGHTLESSNESS**. It is just that the good habit, which we acquired when we were children, of giving to God has become the not so good habit of thoughtless giving, which results in small offerings, which do not reflect our desire to **HONOUR GOD**, or our wish to extend **HIS KINGDOM ON EARTH**. Moreover, these small offerings do not always take into consideration the material needs of the Church on the one hand, or the necessity of giving to God 'according to our means' on the other.

THE NEW PATTERN

IN JUSTICE

THIS OFFERTORY PROMISE CAMPAIGN sets out to introduce a new pattern of giving and to make all of us more conscious of our obligation to consider carefully what, in proportion to our income, we should in justice give back to God when we assist in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass.

'PRAY, BRETHREN, THAT YOUR SACRIFICE AND MINE BE ACCEPTABLE' (The Orate Fratres)

In the old days the people brought the first fruits of their labours and offered them in kind at the 'Offertory Procession'. Now, for the sake of convenience, and in a practical way, we offer money, which still represents part of our substance. It is truly an offering of part of our life and labour which have earned it for us. It should represent the best part – the first fruits, but in so far as we give some of that effort back to God we share fully in the sacrifice at the altar. That is why the plate comes round at that point in the Mass – 'The Offertory' – it is our offering, our sacrifice, united to the total offering of Christ Our Lord, Head and members of the Mystical Body offering themselves (through Him) to the Father.

'WE GIVE THEE THANKS' (Preface to the Canon of the Mass)

The Mass is called 'The Eucharist' which means 'Thanksgiving', and at the Offertory of the Mass we share with the priest in offering the bread and the wine later to become the Body and Blood of Christ. And then, with Christ present on the altar, priest and people with Him offer themselves to the Eternal Father for four specific ends, Adoration – Reparation – Petition – and **THANKSGIVING**. It is thanksgiving for all the gifts which God has given to us both spiritual and temporal.

ONLY ONE OFFERING

In future, therefore, all our giving to the Church is to be directed towards this end. There will be only one collection – the Offertory Collection – and the amount which we put into it should be a carefully considered sum related to our circumstances in life.

We shall be asked as the Fifth Commandment of the Church directs. **TO GIVE ACCORDING TO OUR MEANS SO THAT GOD MAY BE DULY HONoured AND HIS KINGDOM ON EARTH EXTENDED.**

**THIS IS A COPY
OF THE
OFFERTORY PROMISE CARD**

AS MY/OUR THANK-OFFERING TO GOD
I/we will try to give at the Offertory of the Mass
..... weekly for three years

*It is understood that this promise may be revised or
cancelled should my/our circumstances make it
necessary*

Signature.....

Representative..... Date.....

Points to Note :

- (1) THIS PROMISE CARD IS NOT LEGALLY BINDING. WE MAY INCREASE, REDUCE, OR CANCEL THE PROMISE AT ANY TIME BY PUTTING A NOTE IN OUR OFFERTORY ENVELOPE.
- (2) THIS PROMISE CARD IS NOT MORALLY BINDING. THE MORAL OBLIGATION TO SUPPORT THE CHURCH RESTS ON THE FIFTH COMMANDMENT OF THE CHURCH, BUT OBVIOUSLY WE SHOULD INTEND TO KEEP A PROMISE, SO LET US NOT MAKE IT LIGHTLY.
- (3) IF WE SHOULD FALL ON HARD TIMES, AND WE CANNOT KEEP OUR PROMISE, WE HAVE ONLY TO SAY SO. FALLING ON HARD TIMES RESULTS IN A CHANGE IN OUR MEANS: IT IS ALWAYS ACCORDING TO OUR MEANS THAT GOD THROUGH HIS CHURCH ASKS US TO DO OUR BEST IN GIVING.
- (4) PAYMENTS WILL COMMENCE ON
SUNDAY, 28th OCTOBER, 1962.

SOME TYPICAL QUESTIONS ANSWERED . . .

MUST I REVEAL MY INCOME?

No! No one will ask you what is your income, or what are your expenses.

HOW MUCH SHOULD WE GIVE?

No one can tell us how much we should promise to give. The Church leaves it to each one of us to decide for himself how much our Offering should be.

WHO SAID 10 PER CENT OF INCOME?

The Church has never said that we are expected to promise to give 10 per cent of our income, nor does the Church set any other standard based on a percentage of income. The Church recommends that we make a generous promise consistent with our individual circumstances.

Equal sacrifice, not equal giving, is expected.

WHAT IS A GOOD OFFERTORY PROMISE?

It is a promise for an amount, great or small, which will bring many blessings, because it is actuated by love of God and His Church, and involves some sacrifice on the part of the person or family making the promise.

WHY SIGN A PROMISE?

There are many reasons:

- (a) The Church will have a knowledge of its future income.
- (b) It makes us more aware of our duty to the Church.
- (c) It is made after careful consideration. If what we give to God is thought about and planned, it can be more meritorious than what is given without thought and on the spur of the moment.

WHAT ABOUT ARREARS?

The Offertory Promise Card is not a hire purchase agreement. When we sign it, we promise that we will TRY TO GIVE; we promise God that we will do our best to SUPPORT His Church – ACCORDING TO OUR MEANS – and that we will do our best to keep that promise. However, we are free to revise or cancel the promise at any time.

WILL MY PROMISE BE PUBLISHED?

The parish will NOT publish a list of promises or payments received.

**OUR
PARISHIONERS
OF THE
FUTURE**

YES, WE ARE PROUD OF OUR
CHILDREN.

WE ARE PROUD, TOO, OF OUR
ST. MARY'S PARISH IN ITS 150TH
YEAR.

LET OUR CHILDREN FEEL PROUD
IN THE YEARS TO COME THAT
OUR GENERATION ACCEPTED ITS
RESPONSIBILITIES AND PLANNED
WISELY FOR THEIR FUTURE.



THE PARISH REPRESENTATIVE

A VOLUNTEER . . .

A large group of laymen of this parish have given much of their time and resources freely and voluntarily for the sake of the parish. They represent the Parish Priest and their only motive is to assist him in doing God's work in the parish. One of these men will call on you during the next few days to talk to you about the campaign.

The Representative will not:

Under any circumstances tell or even suggest to you what amount you should give to God.

Use any methods to encourage you to give an amount which you do not truly intend to give.

Ask you to do something which he has not already done himself.

Divulge the amount of your promise to anyone other than the Parish Priest.

OUR CAMPAIGN PRAYER

O GOD, THE CREATOR AND GIVER OF ALL THINGS, BLESS OUR PARISH IN THIS UNITED ENDEAVOUR. STRENGTHEN OUR FAITH; GRANT US THE SPIRIT OF SACRIFICE SO THAT, WITH THY GRACE, WE MAY PROVIDE FOR THE NEEDS OF OUR PARISH, GLORIFY THEE AND SANCTIFY OURSELVES, THROUGH CHRIST OUR LORD.

OUR LADY, OUR QUEEN AND OUR MOTHER, IN THE NAME OF JESUS AND FOR THE LOVE OF JESUS, WE IMPLORE THEE TO TAKE OUR CAUSE IN HAND AND TO GRANT IT A GOOD SUCCESS. Amen.

