

## Holy Trinity Tithe Grants Background

Since the 1980s Holy Trinity Catholic Church has committed ten percent of parishioners' regular collections – the tithe - to its ministry of social justice. The tithe program seeks to address root causes of social justice issues both locally and within the global community. We accomplish this in collaboration with members of the parish through prayer and discernment and by giving our time, talents and resources to vulnerable communities. This concrete and ongoing commitment to social justice distinguishes Holy Trinity, and the careful and transparent distribution of tithe monies is an important responsibility of the Social Justice Committee. The tithe program is organized around the ways in which Holy Trinity supports vulnerable communities. The categories of giving are:

**Catholic Education for Low-Income Students.** Holy Trinity is a Jesuit parish with a strong tradition of supporting education. This category includes Holy Trinity School and the three tuition-free Catholic middle schools in Washington DC – the Washington Jesuit Academy, San Miguel School and Washington School for Girls.

**Advocacy.** Grants in this category invest in advocacy and support for organizations whose primary focus is to advocate for social justice issues that are priorities of the US Conference of Catholic Bishops, the Jesuit Conference, and Holy Trinity Church.

**Direct Service.** Grants in this category are made to Catholic-sponsored and other non-profits whose mission is to serve directly the poor and marginalized in the Washington, DC community. For example, supported organizations serve the homeless, focus on women and children in need, help the unemployed, and foster positive youth development. This category of funding is for organizations with which the parish has an existing relationship, be that through drives and donations, volunteers or the like. The grants are flat-funded at \$1,000 in recognition of the organizations' good work. We do not request reports or take proposals for this category of funding.

**Sister Parishes.** This category supports the work of our two sister parishes, Maria Madre de los Pobres in El Salvador and St. Jean Baptiste in Haiti.

**Parish Ministries.** This category supports the work of our own social justice ministries and specific organizations – Catholic Charities, the Georgetown Ministry Center, and the Fr. McKenna Center – that allow us to carry out social justice work.

**Large Grants.** This category funds grants large enough to have a significant social justice impact. Each year the committee in conjunction with the pastor discerns the most pressing social justice issue(s) of the moment and develops a request for proposals to fund organizations seeking to address the root causes of the issue(s) in question. The grant is a one-time grant. It must be spent within a two-year time period. Preference is given to Catholic organizations within the Archdiocese of Washington and Jesuit organizations, all else being equal. The grant cannot be for capital expenses. Additional specific criteria are established each year by the social justice committee, in conjunction with the pastor, and set forth in the request for proposals.