



How Does the Archdiocese Help Support our Parish in its Mission?

When reflecting on the Generation to Generation campaign we may wonder how and why supporting the Archdiocese is important.

It is not unusual for people to think of the Archdiocese and the parishes within it as separate entities. In reality, they are one and the same. Just as the Archdiocese itself is part of a larger entity, the Universal Church, the parishes are part of the Archdiocese. And the Archdiocese has the responsibility of caring for its parishes.

The Archdiocese of Chicago covers all of Cook and Lake County. It serves a Catholic population of over 1.9 million people through its 216 parishes. All of these parishes, although each unique in their own way, are a part of the larger Archdiocese. Here are just a few ways that we at St. Elizabeth of the Trinity benefit from the Archdiocese.

There is the Facilities and Construction Department that is very important when it comes to capital projects and maintenance issues. There is Financial Operations that supports us both by an Archdiocesan Office, and also our local Vicariate Office. The Office of Catholic Schools is huge when it comes to running our school. There are the Offices of Catechesis & Youth Ministry and Lifelong Formation that help with Religious Education, adult programs, and OCIA (Order of Christian Initiation for Adults). There is the Office of Divine Liturgy which clarifies any liturgical issues. There is SPRED (Special Religious Education) for children with developmental disabilities. The Real Estate, Legal Services, and Insurance Departments have proved to be essential in their support. Human Resources is always an important asset. These are just a few ways that the Archdiocese aids us and the other 215 parishes on a daily basis.

In addition to those items listed above, the Archdiocese has the mission of recruiting priests and religious through the Vocation Office, running a nationally renowned seminary (St. Mary of the Lake), offering immeasurable charitable help through Catholic Charities, offering immigration assistance, maintaining Catholic cemeteries, and chaplaincies for the police and fire departments plus at both airports. There are also domestic violence initiatives, and offices serving the Black, Hispanic, Polish, and Native American communities, the Global Mission Office, the Respect Life Office, prison ministries, the Office for the Protection of Children and Vulnerable Adults and Office for the Deaf, Radio & TV Departments plus the *Chicago Catholic* newspaper. There is also Ministerial Support, the Marriage Tribunal, Parish Operations, Stewardship & Development, and very importantly, care of our retired priests.

Although not complete, this list of the benefits the Archdiocese offers to us as a parish, or to the other parishes collectively, or to the larger Church, I'm sure you can agree, is quite impressive.

In closing I think it is correct to say that we (SEOT) are the Archdiocese and the Archdiocese is us. Just as the parish supports the Archdiocese, the Archdiocese supports the parish. I recommend that you keep these thoughts in mind when you are asked to pray over making your Generation-to-Generation pledge.

Jim Madura