

St. John the Baptist, Dixie Celebrates Phone Banks with Fanfare

Bring out the clappers, poppers and noisemakers! St. John the Baptist, Dixie has redefined the nature of the Phone Bank. A small parish, St. John's Campaign Executive Committee (CEC) of eight has successfully made their Phone Banks a fun and friendly environment. Prior to each Phone Bank, volunteers set their own goals based on how many phone calls they will make that night, how many parishioners they will reach, and how many gifts they will potentially receive. Whenever a pledge is made, the group breaks out their clappers!

Once the Phone Bank has closed for the night, the group meets together to discuss the evenings events. The final numbers are analyzed and each member sets off their clappers to applaud their success!

Adding Fun to Phone Banks

Parish volunteers dedicate an entire evening for a Phone Bank, so it is important for parish priests and CEC members to create an entertaining and productive atmosphere. Providing food, a positive working environment and a sense of camaraderie will make the time fly by and keep volunteers motivated. Below are a few helpful tips from fellow parishes.

Motivation is key for an enjoyable and productive phone bank. Parishes should make use of a variety of tools to

inspire volunteers. St. Peter, Scarborough, a Pilot Parish, found using the Hallelujah Button iPhone application an encouraging mechanism. When volunteers received a pledge, they were asked to press the button on The Reverend Erin Martin's iPhone that would sound Handel's "Hallelujah Chorus" for all to hear!

What is a Phone Bank?

One way to invite parish families to participate in the *Our Faith—Our Hope* campaign is through Phone Banks. Phone Banks allow volunteers the opportunity to reach several families during a short period of time. Trained volunteers call from the parish to follow-up on a mailing sent from the Diocese. This mailing includes the Diocesan case statement, the parish case statement and a request letter from The Most Reverend Colin Johnson. Volunteers call to ensure parishioners have received their packets and to ask for their support of the campaign.

Other parishes have used visual and even tasty cues to alert volunteers of hard work. Volunteers at Block I parish Christ Memorial Church Oshawa were asked to be "Vanna White" and record pledges received on a large poster in the front of the room. Providing rewards, such as a plate of cookies or a gift card, for volunteers who reach a benchmark create an energetic environment.

Campaign Statistical Update

Block II Total

Goal: \$7,167,000
Pledged \$4,087,208
Percent of Goal: 57%
Number of Gifts: 924

Campaign Total

Goal: \$50,000,000
Pledged: \$19,087,486
Percent of Goal: 38%
Number of Gifts: 3,321

Want to be able to rejoice with your iPhone or iTouch?

Click here to add the [Hallelujah Button](#)

Many volunteers forego dinner to help with the campaign. It is a nice gesture by the CEC members to thank the volunteers with sandwiches, pizza and other snacks. St. Paul, Lindsay's Cook's Fare donated Christmas fruitcake to feed the hungry calling volunteers. Having food also affords the volunteers time to take a break in between phone calls.



Joy Fulford, campaign chair at St. Martin-in-the-Fields, calls fellow parishioners during a phone bank.