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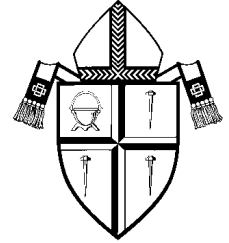
To: Pastors with Large Latino Congregations

From: Bishop Bejarano, Bishop Dolan, Marioly Galvan, Shirley
Pajanor, and Manny Aguilar

Office of the Auxiliary Bishop

Date: November 2, 2020

Re: Sharing best practices to engage Latino giving during Covid

Dear Pastors,

The pandemic brought several challenges to many sectors and institutions of our society. Our churches have not been the exception, one of them being financial sustainability. Parishes with large Latino communities have experienced a big hit. Most Latinos are accustomed to give cash for their weekend offering. While some of the parishes are at 60% or 75% of giving, others are down to 35%.

The restrictions and challenges from the pandemic may continue. Some estimate it may continue possibly through June of next year. If parishes with low offerings continue to have the same pattern, their challenges could be greater. Many of us accept that Latinos have a different understanding of giving. However, that does not signify that there are no other ways to engage them, or provide opportunities for formation that will help instill a culture of stewardship.

We would like to invite pastors to share some of the best practices they have used in their Latino congregations to increase their engagement and giving during Covid. You can send those practices to rbejarano@sdcatholic.org before Tuesday, November 10th. We will put them together on a document and share with everyone. We will offer a Zoom meeting on Wednesday, November 18th at 10:30 am for those who might be interested in meeting via Zoom and have a conversation about our findings. We will send out another email two days before the Zoom meeting for you to let us know if you are interested in participating and we will send you the Zoom link.

The Diocesan offices are creating a virtual Advent calendar in Spanish to help our Latino brothers and sisters be thankful and generous during this season. We hope you can help us promote the calendar among the Spanish-speaking members of your community. Once it is ready, we will send you the link to share it.