

BOOK V: THE TEMPORAL GOODS OF THE CHURCH

SECTION § 400

FUNDRAISING

Canon 1262, *Code of Canon Law*: The faithful are to give support to the Church by responding to appeals and according to the norms issued by the conference of bishops.

Canon 1265, §1, *Code of Canon Law*: Without prejudice to the right of religious mendicants, any private person, whether physical or juridic, is forbidden to beg for alms for any pious or ecclesiastical institute or purpose without the written permission of that person's own ordinary and of the local ordinary.

Canon 1265, §2, *Code of Canon Law*: The conference of bishops can establish norms for begging for alms which all must observe, including those who by their foundation are called and are mendicants.

USCCB Complimentary Norms regarding the implementation of canon 1262: Institutes of consecrated life and societies of apostolic life require approval of the respective major superiors and the diocesan bishop to solicit funds; diocesan entities require approval of the diocesan bishop to solicit funds; other Catholic entities and organizations require the approval of the diocesan bishop to solicit funds.

General Principles for Fundraising in the Diocese of Fargo

400. In the Diocese of Fargo, fundraising is undertaken on the diocesan level as well as by individual parishes, organizations, and entities. The purpose of this fundraising is to ensure that the Church has what is necessary for divine worship, apostolic works, works of charity, and for the decent sustenance of its ministers.

401. All fundraising in the Diocese of Fargo must be conducted in a manner that is truthful and forthright, theologically sound, and which motivates the faithful to a greater love of God and neighbor.

402. Fund-raising efforts may only be undertaken for defined needs, and the funds collected must be used for their intended purposes.

403. Donors are to be informed regarding the use of donated funds and assured that any restrictions on the use of funds made by the donor will be honored.

- 404. When fundraising, special care is to be taken to ensure that ethical business relationships are maintained. This is best accomplished when control over materials, designs, and money and general operations remain in the hands of the religious fundraiser.**
- 405. For the purposes of this policy, fundraising is defined as including but not limited to: bake sales, bazaars, bingo, capital campaigns, carnivals, clothing sales, coupon books/cards, dinners, food sales, raffles, plays/theatre, as well as personal solicitations whether oral or written. Not included are normal offertory collected during Masses (canons 222, §1 and 1259-1261) or special collections for parochial, diocesan, national or universal projects approved by the Bishop of Fargo or the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (canon 1266).**

Accountability

- 406. Fundraising at the diocesan level occurs primarily through the annual diocesan fund appeal. This appeal, as well as fundraising done in accord with the Planned Giving Program and the Catholic Development Foundation, is under the direction of the Office of Stewardship and Development.**
- 407. The funds collected as part of any diocesan fund-raising effort are not maintained by the Office of Stewardship but are distributed, accumulated, or invested according to the provisions of canon law by the Finance Office under the oversight of the Diocesan Finance Council and/or Board of Directors.**
- 408. Institutes of consecrated life and societies of apostolic life require the approval of the respective major superiors and the diocesan bishop to solicit funds; diocesan entities require approval of the diocesan bishop to solicit funds; other Catholic entities and organizations require the approval of the diocesan bishop to solicit funds.**
- 409. Blanket approval is given to diocesan entities such as parishes, cemeteries, and schools, institutes of consecrated life and societies of apostolic life, as well as all other Catholic entities and organizations listed in the Official Catholic Directory, for fundraising intended to directly benefit the diocesan, religious, of Catholic entity or organization, providing that the expected revenue of the fundraising is less than 50% of the previous year's total offertory or \$100,000, whichever is less. If the entity or organization does not have an offertory, the \$100,000 threshold applies.**

410. Fundraising by diocesan, religious or Catholic entities or organizations that is intended to benefit something *other than* the entity or organization, regardless of the projected percentage or amount, requires written approval of the Bishop of Fargo. Examples include but are not limited to fundraising for individuals or projects in foreign countries (e.g. orphanages and schools) that is undertaken within the scope of the definition of fundraising provided Article 405.

411. Fundraisers are to provide regular reports to the competent authority (e.g. the governing body and membership of the fund-raising organization, the authorities who approved the fundraising effort, the donors and beneficiaries of the funds raised) regarding the financial status of the fundraising effort and the apostolic work for which the funds were raised. These reports should include, at the least, the amount of money collected, the cost of conducting the fund-raising effort, and the amount and use of the funds disbursed.

412. The Bishop of Fargo will exercise reasonable oversight over fund-raising programs within the Diocese of Fargo and retains the right to periodic review of all fundraising efforts within the territory or conducted by diocesan or affiliated entities, as well as the right, when necessary, to employ appropriate sanctions.

Procedures

413. Requests for approval for fundraising, exceeding the automatic approval provided by article 409, should be made in writing to the Bishop of Fargo. All requests must include a description of the purpose for which the funds are being raised, the time frame, and the methods to be employed in raising them.

414. Reports regarding fundraising efforts that have received the express written approval of the Bishop of Fargo should be incorporated into normal fiscal year reporting. However, in the case of fundraising campaigns that exceed one year or reporting period, a comprehensive report of the entire campaign should be submitted to the Finance Office of the Diocese of Fargo at its conclusion.

415. Complaints regarding fundraising in the Diocese of Fargo should be brought to the attention of the Diocesan Finance Officer. Formal complaints will be promptly investigated so that if any abuses are uncovered they can be appropriately remedied. The Bishop of Fargo reserves the right to terminate any fundraising program if necessary.

416. Federal, state, and local laws must be followed in all fundraising efforts. Licensing requirements and tax withholdings are the responsibility of the fundraising body.

417. With the promulgation of this policy, no further agreements are to be made which directly or indirectly base payment either to the commercial firm or to the religious fund-raiser on a percentage basis without the written consent of the Bishop of Fargo. Those parishes and entities with SCRIP programs may continue to solicit funds through this means until further direction is received.

Canon Law can be found on the Vatican website at
http://www.vatican.va/archive/ENG1104/_INDEX.HTM