
Title *

United Thank Offering "Blue Box"

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July 30, 2009

Dear friends in Christ,

The United Thank Offering is a wonderful program of the Episcopal Church which helps individuals and families express their thanks for the blessing of everyday life. It is a way for each person to express tangible thanks to God, united with prayers and offerings.

The United Thank Offering has a legacy. Two far-sighted women in 1889 started the legacy by showing the connection between giving thanks and giving money, united in prayer and sharing. The integrity of our legacy has been maintained for over 100 years. The United Thank Offering is a strong and firm mission arm of the Episcopal Church that reaches around the world.

The "Blue Box" gives the opportunity for all members of our church family to give thanks for their blessings each day. The power of the "Blue Box" is unlimited. Your prayers and offerings have helped build churches, schools, made needed renovations, fed the hungry, clothed the poor, provided shelter for the homeless and provided care and support for those with physical, mental and emotional challenges. Many UTO grants have been given and done good work right in our own Diocese of Pennsylvania.

Our diocese, all 145 congregations strong, plays a pivotal role in the United Thank Offering. We are strong in prayer and willing to share our bounty. There should be an active UTO co-coordinator in each and every parish to facilitate our two annual Ingatherings. UTO coordinators and clergy should have a presence at the two Diocesan Ingatherings, held on or near Ascension Day and on or near All Saints Day.

The two UTO Coordinators for the Diocese of Pennsylvania are Betty Berry-Holmes, St. Luke's, Germantown; and Virginia Trimble, St. Peter's, Glenside. Please contact them to help facilitate ingatherings in your parish. [Need to provide contact information]

"Gratitude takes three forms: a feeling in the heart, an expression in words, and giving in return." Please be an active part of the United Thank Offering in the Diocese of Pennsylvania and help us make a witness to the world.

Yours in Christ,

The Rt. Rev. Rodney R. Michel

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Name * J.D. Lafrance

Email * jdlafrance@diopa.org

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