

Statutes for the Tithing Committee of the Diocese of Cheyenne

Introduction

The Diocese of Cheyenne Tithing Committee (the “Committee”) is an advisory committee providing advice and assistance to the Bishop of Cheyenne.

This Charter outlines the responsibilities of the Committee with respect to the duties of individual members.

Purpose of the Tithing Committee in Stewardship: A Disciple’s Response

The Committee is responsible for providing the Bishop of Cheyenne advice and assistance regarding annual tithing by the Diocese. These practices will be based on stewardship as defined by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) as “a disciple’s response,” stewardship is the everyday way of life in which all Catholics are to practically employ their time, talent, and material possessions (“treasure”) for the service of God, the Church, their fellow human beings, and all of God’s creation.

Committee Membership

The Committee shall consist of not less than five (5) and not more than nine (9) active Catholics from across the Diocese and the Assistant to the Bishop who is an ex-officio non-voting member. Each member shall be appointed by the Bishop of Cheyenne for a term of three (3) years. Members shall be limited to three (3) consecutive full three (3) year terms. Normally, terms will begin July 1 and expire on June 30. Members shall serve at the pleasure of the Bishop.

The Committee shall designate one member to serve as Chair who is responsible for organizing meetings and disseminating information. The Chair shall serve a term of one (1) year and shall be limited to three (3) consecutive full one (1) year terms. Chair will be elected at the last Committee meeting of each fiscal year and begins serving on July 1.

The Assistant to the Bishop shall serve as the secretary of the committee, work with the Chair to provide pertinent information for the meetings and be responsible for distribution of funds.

Organization

The Committee shall hold regular quarterly meetings and shall meet more frequently as circumstances require. The Secretary shall keep minutes of the meetings and provide quarterly reports to the Bishop. The Chair, in consultation with other Committee members, shall set the agenda for and preside at the meetings. A quorum for the transaction of business at any meeting of the Committee shall consist of a majority of Committee members. Decisions shall be made by a majority of those present at the meeting. Whenever possible, the Bishop will attend the meetings.

Authority and Responsibilities

The Committee's principal responsibilities are to offer recommendations to the Bishop of Cheyenne regarding distribution of annual diocesan tithing. On behalf of the Committee, the Secretary will submit the recommendations to the Bishop for his review, acceptance, modification, and/or approval. Below are four categories that will be considered for the distribution, as well as guidelines as to the percentage of the annual diocesan tithe to be allocated to each of these categories. Note: All percentages below are general guidelines only (the actual percentage may be modified in any given year, especially in the case of exceptional circumstances such as natural disasters):

- The needs within the Catholic Church in Wyoming up to 30%
- The needs within the State of Wyoming (secular) up to 20%
- The needs within our nation, both Church and secular up to 20%
- The needs internationally, both Church and secular up to 30%

Up to 25% of annual tithe funds available will be contributed to the following National Collections authorized by the USCCB (second collections normally taken up in parishes within many dioceses) and will be allocated to the respective categories noted in the previous paragraph, that is or namely, either "national" or "international"):

1. USCCB – The Catholic University of America – Church national
2. USCCB – Latin America – Church international
3. USCCB – Central and Eastern Europe – Church international
4. USCCB – Church in Africa – Church international
5. USCCB – Catholic Communication Campaign – Church national
6. Black and Indian Mission Office – Church national
7. Holy Land – Church international

In addition to making recommendations for the diocesan tithe, the Committee may also make recommendations to distribute monies for similar kinds of purposes (i.e. Catholic Relief Service's Operation Rice Bowl, Catholic Campaign for Human Development, special COVID-19 fund, etc.). There will be flexibility in considering what charities are assisted.

In addition, preferential consideration will be given to projects in parishes and countries/dioceses of priests serving in the Diocese of Cheyenne who are from another country.

SAMPLE YEAR (note: this is for example only)

Name of recipient	WY Church	WY secular	National	International	
Diocese of Nellore (priest of diocese)				20,000	
Diocese of Velez (priest of diocese)				7,000	
St. Joseph's Leprosy Patient Society (priest of diocese)				5,000	
Catholic University			12,734		
USCCB Latin America				4,000	
USCCB Central/Eastern Europe				2,300	
USCCB Church in Africa				9,000	
USCCB Catholic Communications			12,000		
Black and Indian Mission Office			12,000		
Holy Land				10,000	
Friday Food Bag		2,000			
Food Bank of Wyoming		20,000			
Sundance building	50,000				
Other WY church	7,300				
Other National			1466		
Other WY		16,200			
TOTAL	57,300	38,200	38,200	57,300	191,000
	30%	20%	20%	30%	

(Note: in this example \$62,034.00 is designated for the USCCB Special Collections, and \$128,966.00 is designated for other charitable needs.)

Compensation

All members shall serve without compensation for the performance of their duties as members of the Committee. The Diocese of Cheyenne shall be responsible for any reasonable costs or expenses incurred in the performance of the duties of the Committee.