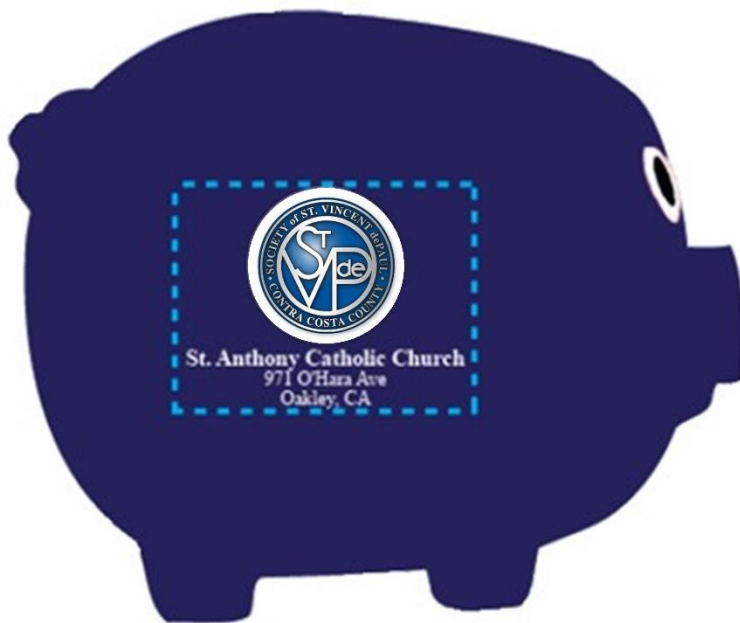


Lenten Piggy Bank Drive

St. Anthony Conference is blessed with a core group of Vincentians who work tirelessly to serve neighbors in need in our community. With both a robust food pantry and a group of Vincentians conducting home visits throughout the year, we do our best to leverage funding opportunities to support our mission. We are also blessed with an abundance of support from our parish. Our priest, Father Rafael Hinojosa, is a staunch supporter of our ministry and graciously provides us with funds by designating the 2nd collection every 5th Sunday of the month for our conference. In addition, our largest fundraiser is our annual Lenten Piggy Bank Drive. Here is how it works.

We purchased hundreds of piggy banks from a promotional company and had our logo and conference information imprinted on them. Our initial expense was over \$600. We number the piggies on their snouts with a permanent marker. The piggies look like this:



To kick off the event, we speak to our parishioners from the ambo during the announcements at every mass the week before the beginning of Lent. We also publish an announcement in the bulletin and on our parish website. Then, on the first Sunday after Ash Wednesday, we hand out piggies after every mass. We ask parishioners to print their names, phone numbers, and the number on the pig's snout on a form. To keep things moving, we use several clipboards so that we can hand out multiple piggies at the same time. We ask parishioners to return them at Easter.

On Easter, we stand outside the church and say 'Thank you!' as people return them. Most people forget. We also collect piggies the week after Easter. In addition, we build a locking pig pen and it is placed in the vestibule. People drop off piggies at their convenience, and we empty the pig pen daily.

In late May or early June, we hold a piggy party, where we empty the contents of the piggy banks into thick plastic bags provided to us by our bank. We then take the money to the

bank. The bills and checks are deposited into our account at that time. The coins are sent by the bank to their main facility in San Francisco, where they are counted by machine for us. Since we are a 501(c)3, our bank provides this services free of charge. (It is helpful that one of our Vincentians is an assistant manager at the bank).

Last year, our gross proceeds totaled over \$16,000. We use these funds to provide food and emergency assistance to our neighbors in need. Our parish community embraces our ministry and has confidence in us and the work we do. God is good! We are happy to serve.