



Office for Ministry with Youth

Archdiocese of Philadelphia

A collection of FUNDRAISING Ideas

Stocks: If you are asking your parish to invest in your teens, set up stock options. Sell "stocks" for a set price. Give the stock holder a certificate for each stock they buy. Throughout the year have the teens update their stockholders by sending monthly investment letters. This could be a letter from a teen saying what they are looking forward to, how they are going to use the money from the stocks, and general ministry updates. At the end of the year, hold a "stockholders' dinner" where the teens serve those who have invested in them, give presentations about the event or project the money went to, and give thanks!

Host a Rummage/ Craft/ Garage Sale: Host a rummage sale, a craft market, or a used book sale with all proceeds going to the ministry.

Bake Sale: A classic for a reason. Have volunteers provide baked goods (including gluten free and vegan if you can) and sell after Mass or at an event. Set it up as a free will donation for each baked good.

- Example, Stock's Pound Cake sale after masses or bakery items from a local bakery

Host a Food Event: Fish fry, chili cook-offs, spaghetti suppers, tamales sales, taco dinners, pierogi parties, pancake breakfasts and more! This can be a great way to partner with a parish organization for help. Have your young people help with the event by serving food or by cleaning tables. Create posters for decorations. Have bios of the teens you are raising money for on the tables, so guests know who they are helping.

Babysitting Opportunities: Set up times when your teens can watch younger children for busy parents. Offer to babysit children while their parents are out shopping for Christmas presents or getting ready for a big holiday. Make sure adult chaperones are present as well.

Donor Letters: Craft a letter your teens can send to their family members, friends, teachers, coaches, or other community members asking for donations for your cause. Always remember to say thank you in the letter. Regardless of whether they donate, the recipients of your letter have taken time out of their days to read your words. Ask them to pray for you.

Movie Night: grab a big screen, a family friendly movie, and order some pizzas.

Second Collection: Talk with your pastor to see if your parish can hold a second collection for your ministry. Have young people serve as ushers.

T-shirts: If your group is planning on making t-shirts for the event or conference, take orders from parishioners as well. That way, they can feel even more invested in your young people and will have a wearable reminder of what they gave to. It will also help the community come together.

Game Night: Have a collection of games people can come and play. You can offer a prize for the winner of each game tournament and sell snacks to bring in a bit of extra cash from the fundraiser.

Envelope Fundraiser: Lay out on a table a collection of envelopes with money amounts written on the front. One version has 100 envelopes. On each envelope there is one money amount, \$1, \$2, \$3 and so on until there is an envelope from \$1-\$100. Encourage parishioners to take one envelope and give what is written on the envelope. Another way is to have a set number of envelopes with one money amount. For example, 20 envelopes with \$1 on it, 20 envelopes with \$5 on it, 20 with \$20 on it, 20 with \$50, 10 with \$100, and 10 blank ones where people can write their own amount. It's a quick, fun way of encouraging parishioners to give what they can. Make sure you collect their information when they turn in their envelope so you can send them a thank you card!

- An idea: you can have youth decorate the envelopes.

Penny/Coin Collection: Invite the parish to bring unwanted pennies or coins to the parish and collect them in jars/water cooler jugs, or buckets. Those pennies add up!

Kickball/Dodgeball Night: Have a fun night with the kids of your parish. Don't forget to invite a round for parents to play too!

Sponsor a Youth: Layout how much the trip or event will cost. Invite community members to sponsor part of the event. For example, layout ticket cost, travel expenses, the cost for a meal, or other expenses.

Selling Items: There are many options out there for you to have your ministry sell things for profit, like candy bars, cookie dough, pretzels, Krispy Kreme doughnuts, and more. Two Catholic organizations we recommend are SockReligious and Tiny Saints.

- **SockReligious** is a Catholic sock company out of Indianapolis. They sell socks with designs inspired by saints and liturgical living, <https://sockreligious.com/pages/fundraising>
- **Tiny Saints** is a Catholic keychain company. Each keychain is a tiny saint. <https://www.tinysaints.com/pages/onlinefundraising>

Widdy Up Online Fundraising (<https://www.widdyup.com/>): plays to teens love of Tik Tok and YouTube, making videos

Work with local restaurants to help staff a parish evening: % of sales goes to ministry

Partner with local stores or restaurants: receive part of sales by either selling discounted coupons for use at the store or restaurant or from the sales made during a specific amount of time by those who mention your ministry.

- Example: Five Below, Chipotle

Flamingo Raids: Get a flock of plastic pink flamingoes from Oriental Trading Co. (800-228-2269) and announce that parishioners can have anyone's yard "Flamingoed" for a \$50 donation (the youth group sneaks into their yard at night and places 2-3 dozen flamingoes all over it with a sign saying they've been "Flamingoed" with a note from the person who paid for it and that, for a donation, the youth group will come and take them away). You can also sell "insurance" for \$50 that keeps flamingoes out of a person's yard (recommended for Parish Staff and Pastoral Council leaders!). A great community builder for the group.

Flower Sales: These work great, especially for Spring, Easter and Mother's Day. Have youth selling carnations (and stick pins) before and after each of the masses.

- [Dutch Mill Bulbs](#) in Annville, PA will "donate 50% of the profits from your order to the cause you select."

Donut Sales: Hold after mass every Sunday. NOTE: If you are doing Krispy Kreme sales, be sure to call them ASAP - they are limited in the number of donuts they can make for each Sunday for church sales.

Car Wash: Hold a Car Wash in the parking lot. Hook-up a couple of hoses, get buckets, sponges, and car soap. Ask old towel donations from parents. The youth can make posters. Make a sign-up genius for the teens to take shifts (from 8 am to noon on a Saturday). You can make it a free will offering. People can be very generous! They can take turns doing the various jobs (soaping, rinsing, drying, collecting \$ etc). You can make a flyer and post it in the parish bulletin and social media.

Luminary Donations: Purchase white bags, electric tea lights, and sand. One weekend close to Christmas ask for \$5.00 donations for a luminary that will illuminate parish's walk way Christmas Eve night. You can also consider selling luminaries for All Souls.

Donations after masses: Have teens speak at every mass (one weekend) to ask for support to attend a specific event. After mass the teens stand at the doors to collect donations.

Other Thoughts

- **Dress Down Day** for schools: charge a few dollars to not wear uniforms for the day.
- **Silent Auction**