

GIFT Continuation Phase Check Sheet for parishes

Your Continuation Committee:

Has your Continuation Committee been set up? Does it know its responsibilities? Do these include deciding how the GIFT proceeds are to be spent, or are they limited to organizing and managing your Continuation Phase followup campaign with the parish? Does the Committee have good links to your Stewardship Committee? To Parish Council? To Executive?

Your Continuation Phase Communications Strategy – questions to consider:

When is the anniversary of your GIFT Kick-off Sunday? Does it make sense to prepare a communications package that will go public on that Sunday? Would you want to communicate with all parish members on that Sunday to provide an update and remind them of GIFT?

How, and how frequently, would you propose to communicate GIFT to the parish in the months following your Kick-off anniversary? How would you propose to use bulletin inserts, newsletter articles, pulpit statements, noticeboards, etc.?

How frequently would you make GIFT follow up envelopes available to the parish? Would these be included in regular envelopes boxes, or placed separately in the church? Are you considering a further parish follow up visitation?

Contents of your Communications Strategy – questions to consider:

Do you and your parish know how your parish has used its GIFT funds? Are there specific examples?
Do you and your parish know how the Diocese used its GIFT funds? Are there specific examples?
What has your parish raised towards its GIFT goal? How much remains to be raised?
What has the Diocese raised towards its GIFT goal? How much remains to be raised?

One-time Givers:

Do you plan to prepare GIFT one-time givers for a letter from the Diocese asking them to consider a second gift or a pledge?

New parish members

Have you considered how to approach new parish members about GIFT? Do you have a standard package and approach to new members? How do you invite them to sign up for envelopes, PAR, or name tags? Can GIFT be introduced as part of this process?