



LIFE TEEN

THE MINISTRY OF
FUNDRAISING
FOR LTLC 2026

BORROWED WITH PERMISSION FROM
ST. THOMAS AQUINAS PARISH IN RIO RANCHO, NM

FROM LIFE TEEN

Dear Teens,

As you prepare to attend the Life Teen Leadership Conference, we want you to know that the fundraising process you are beginning is an important part of your formation — not just a way to cover the cost of the event.

Fundraising is an opportunity to grow in trust, stewardship, and responsibility, and to invite others into what God is doing in your life. When you ask for support, you are not asking for a handout. You are inviting family, friends, and members of your parish community to share in the mission of forming young disciples and leaders for the Church.

The Church has always been built through shared sacrifice and generosity. Your willingness to ask, to work, and to trust God's provision is part of how He forms leaders with humility, gratitude, and courage.

As you move forward, we encourage you to approach fundraising with confidence and joy. Pray, be honest, and remember that every gift — large or small — is a sign of God working through His people.

We are grateful for your openness to this journey and excited for what God will do in you through LTLC.

A NOTE ON THE SPIRITUALITY OF FUNDRAISING

Catholic priest and spiritual writer Henri Nouwen taught that fundraising is not primarily about money, but about invitation. He believed that when we ask others to support a mission, we are inviting them to participate in what God is doing — not simply meeting a financial need. Nouwen reminds us that fundraising is an act of trust and relationship. It allows others to share in the joy, fruit, and mission of the Church, and it helps the person asking grow in humility, gratitude, and confidence in God's provision.

Seen this way, fundraising becomes a spiritual practice — one that forms both the giver and the one being formed.

THE SPIRITUALITY OF FUNDRAISING

- 1. Moving from Scarcity to Abundance:** Shift the mindset from lack to recognizing God's abundant provision, trusting in His generosity.
- 2. Recognizing the Goodness of Fund-Raising:** View fund-raising positively, as an opportunity to invite others to participate in God's work and connect with a meaningful mission.
- 3. Seeing Fund-Raising as a Call to Conversion:** Approach fund-raising as a chance for personal transformation, shifting from self-centeredness to stewardship and service to others.
- 4. Embracing Fund-Raising as a Ministry:** Understand fund-raising as a spiritual practice, fostering relationships, and inviting others to share in a common vision.
- 5. Cultivating Trust and Prayer in Fund-Raising:** Foster trust in God's guidance and provision, supported by a prayerful attitude throughout the fund-raising process.
- 6. Inviting Others into the Joy of Giving:** Extend an invitation to others to experience the joy of generosity and participate in the mission's impact.
- 7. Nurturing Relationships with Donors:** Recognize the value of building meaningful connections with donors, fostering a sense of community and shared purpose.
- 8. Creating a Culture of Gratitude and Celebration:** Cultivate an environment of gratitude, expressing appreciation for donors and celebrating the impact of their contributions.
- 9. Integrating Fund-Raising into the Mission and Vision of the Community:** Align fund-raising efforts with the larger mission and vision, ensuring coherence and a sense of purpose.
- 10. Practicing Stewardship and Accountability:** Exercise responsible stewardship over resources, ensuring transparency, accountability, and wise use of funds.

These principles provide a holistic framework for approaching fund-raising as a spiritual practice, emphasizing trust, gratitude, relationship-building, and aligning efforts with a larger mission and vision.

A LESSON FROM ST. PAUL

TRUSTING IN GOD'S PLAN

St. Paul demonstrated a deep trust in God's provision throughout his ministry. Despite facing numerous challenges, opposition, and even personal hardships, he remained steadfast in his faith, relying on God's abundant grace and guidance.

St. Paul's approach to fundraising can be seen in his letters to the early Christian communities, where he appeals to them for financial support. He viewed fundraising not as a burden or a necessary evil, but as an opportunity for the community to actively participate in the mission of spreading the Gospel. St. Paul recognized that the work of evangelization required resources, and he invited others to contribute generously to support the mission.

Moreover, St. Paul's understanding of fundraising was rooted in his conviction that giving was an act of spiritual transformation. In his second letter to the Corinthians, he writes about the grace of giving and encourages them to give cheerfully, as God loves a cheerful giver. He believed that fundraising was not just about financial transactions but about the spiritual growth and formation of both the giver and the receiver.

St. Paul's life and teachings align with Nouwen's emphasis on building relationships and forming connections in fundraising. St. Paul sought to develop deep and meaningful relationships with the communities he served, fostering a sense of unity and shared purpose. He understood that fundraising was not merely about obtaining resources, but about creating a community of support and involvement.

Overall, St. Paul's life of evangelization reflects Nouwen's notion that fundraising is more than a practical endeavor; it is a spiritual practice that involves trust, gratitude, and a deep connection to God's work. St. Paul's example demonstrates that fundraising, when approached with the right mindset and rooted in faith, can be a means to invite others into the mission, deepen spiritual growth, and foster a vibrant and generous community.



STUDENT FUNDRAISING - Getting Started

This journey isn't just about raising money—it's about stepping into a mission. Fundraising is a way to invite others to join in what God is doing in you, through you and through the Church.

Ready to begin?

1. Set Your Goal

Before asking for support, identify what you'll need. Your goal may go beyond the basic registration cost—consider things like travel, supplies, etc.

 My Personal Fundraising Goal: \$ _____



2. Bring It to Prayer

Once you know your goal, bring it to God in prayer.

Ask for:

- 🙏 **Clarity:** Is this the right amount?
- 💡 **Wisdom:** What gifts has God given me to help raise these funds?
- 💪 **Fortitude:** To persevere even when it's hard

Prayer will keep you rooted and remind you that this journey is spiritual, not just financial.



3. Know Your “Why”

Why do you want to go to LTLC?

- Grow in your faith?
- Strengthen your leadership skills?
- Step outside your comfort zone?
- Be equipped for the future?

Whatever your reason, own it. Be excited about it.

Be ready to share it in less than three minutes, and be prepared to go deeper when people ask more questions.



STUDENT FUNDRAISING - Getting Started

4. Make a Plan:

Start with what you personally can do:

- 💰 **My Personal Sacrificial Giving** (from savings, part-time work, chores): \$ _____

Name Storming: Develop an initial list of 50+ potential fundraising partners.

No name is disqualified! Don't decide for an individual whether they're interested or not!

- Expect the unexpected and don't be shy about sending letters!
- Label each contact "H," "M," or "L" for high, medium, or low priority
- Collect all addresses and phone numbers. Your parents may have an address list you can reference
- Sample below

	Priority (High, Medium, Low)	Name	Phone	Email	Address	Sent Letter	Called	Amount	Date Gave	Sent Thank You!
1	H	Jon Doe	555-325-8462	johnny@xyf.com	P.O. Box 275, Corrales Utah 51263	Y	Y	\$ 150.00	1-Sep	
2	L	Susan Frederickson	555-984-6321	suziq@aol.com	123 Any Street, Santa Fe, Hawaii 65412	N	Y	\$ -		
3	M	Fr. Sampson	554-412-8632	padrejo@church.org		N	N	\$ 50.00	11-Sep	Y

A. Family Contacts (family members + connections)

- Family members > parents, siblings, aunts, uncles, grandparents
- Parents' friends > church friends, childhood friends, wedding participants/guests
- Parents' contacts > bible study members/leaders, co-workers, colleagues
- Family acquaintances > family doctor, mechanic, priest

B. Personal Contacts

- Classes/school > professors, teachers, classmates
- Clubs/teams/groups > teammates, coaches, bible study leaders, friends
- Housing > roommates, parents of roommates
- Jobs/summer jobs/internships > co-workers, bosses, colleagues
- Church > peers, priests, youth ministers, other parishioners you know

C. Community Contacts (those you believe have a stake in sharing Christ)

- Parish personnel > priest, deacons, secretaries, key volunteers
- Lay church leaders > parish organizations, Knights of Columbus, etc.
- Faithful and prayerful Catholics > those with Adoration slots, those who offer Mass for others, those who donate altar flowers, those who attend daily mass, etc.

D. Everybody Else

- Go through the contacts in your phone, your Facebook friends, your Instagram followers...if there's no good reason not to ask them, put their name on the list
- Be bold!

STUDENT FUNDRAISING - Getting Started

5. PRACTICAL PREPARATION

- Purchase all necessary fundraising materials: paper, stamps, pens, thank you notes, etc.
- Create a system that allows you to track your communication and donations, which should be the same list as the name storming, including:
 - Priority
 - Name
 - Phone
 - Email
 - Home Address
 - Appeal letter sent
 - Follow-up phone call
 - Further follow-up needed?
 - Committed amount (check number, if applicable)
 - Thank you sent
 - Newsletter sent
- Write your personal appeal letter template (see more in “Sharing with Others”)
- Write a phone script (see more in “Sharing with Others”)
- Know *how* you will accept donations
- Be prepared to speak with others, don’t just rely on electronic communications.
- Plan at least a weekly time to sit down and work on fundraising

Please consider

HOW TO ACCEPT DONATIONS

Know how you are going to accept donations and keep track of donations.

Things to consider:

- Arrange a time to pick it up, or ask them to mail it to you so you can ensure accuracy
- What should the checks be made payable to?
- Have them include your MISSION Fund - (your name) (provide this to them) in the memo line
- Keep a record of the check number and amount

STUDENT FUNDRAISING - Sharing with Others

1. PRAY

Pray, focus yourself, and humbly ask God to provide for you to attend LTLC. He's called you to entrust all aspects of fundraising to Him!

2. TELL PEOPLE

Start sharing your plans with the people around you—everyone you meet can be a part of your journey. Whether you're serving at Mass, singing in the choir, hanging out at school, on your team, or at work, let others know that you're preparing for something meaningful.

And remember: you're not sharing just so they can give you money. You're inviting them to pray for you and to walk with you spiritually as you get ready for this encounter with Christ.

This opportunity is about more than travel—it's about transformation. People will be moved by your commitment, and you may be surprised by how God inspires them to support you, sometimes in ways you never expected. Their prayers, encouragement, and presence will be part of your preparation.

... **"We are the Body of Christ—and the Body moves together."**

Let others in. Let them lift you up in prayer. This isn't just your journey—it's ours.

3. WRITE & SEND APPEAL LETTERS (CONTINUED)

Draft your appeal letter, including the following (see Appendix for example):

- Date – when you are writing the letter
- Greeting – Dear _____,
- Introduction – Connect with your reader; bring them up to date with what you're doing
- Information – Share what you will do at LTLC, why you've decided to participate, and what you hope to accomplish
- Needs – State your financial needs and your fundraising deadlines
- Invitation – Involve your reader by asking them to cover a specific portion of the trip cost and commit to following up with them by telephone within a specific time frame
- Practicals – instruct them on how to donate
- Conclusion – Acknowledge your relationship again with an emphasis on appreciation, partnership, and commitment
- Contact Information – Make sure they can reach you by sharing your telephone number, address, and e-mail
- Signature – Type out your name, but be sure to sign in ink as well!
- Add a personal touch to your printed appeal letters so your fundraising partners know you care about them and not only their gift
- Sign each letter by hand and add a handwritten P.S.
- Handwrite addresses on the envelope; they'll be more likely to open it!

STUDENT FUNDRAISING - Sharing with Others

4. CALL

- One week after sending out your appeal letters, give your potential donors a call to see if they would like to support you at LTLC
- Many people will want to help you, but won't actually donate unless you reach out
- Always be gracious and courteous!
- Directing your phone call (see the Appendix for sample script)
- Introduce yourself and then briefly mention the letter you sent
- Explain what the Life Teen Leadership Conference is and share what you hope to see God do as a result of your time there
- Remind them of the financial needs you mentioned in your letter, and ask them if they would commit to joining your support team
- Be sure to get a specific number! ("Do you know how much that will be?")
- THANK them!
- Walk them through making the payment
- Always ask them to refer you to other people who might also have a heart for your mission

5. THANK YOU NOTES

- Write a quick thank you note as soon as someone agrees to support you
- Use professionalism and communicate gratitude
- Mail it within 24-48 hours

6. FOLLOW-UP NEWSLETTER

- Verbally describe the main portions of your experience at LTLC, and explain how the external experiences there affected you internally
- Include several pictures
- Writing a follow-up letter increases donor confidence and the likelihood that they will support you in the future

APPENDIX // SAMPLE // Appeal Letter

January 21, 2026

Dear (Recipient Name),

I hope this note finds you and your family doing well! Life has been busy but full of blessings, and I'm excited to share something meaningful that's coming up in my life.

Through my involvement in Life Teen at (parish name), I've been invited to take part in an incredible opportunity this summer. I'll be attending the Life Teen Leadership Conference, designed to help encounter Jesus, grow in leadership, and live as a missionary disciple.

This experience will be more than just a trip—it's a chance for me to step away from the distractions of everyday life and say "yes" to what God might want to do in my heart. I'll be joining other teens and adult leaders from our church as we take this step together.

In order to make this possible, I'm building a team of people who can support me along the way—spiritually and financially. That's why I'm reaching out to you!

Would you consider supporting me in one (or both) of these ways?

1. **Through prayer:** I truly believe prayer changes things, and I would be grateful to have you praying for me as I prepare for this experience.
2. **Through a financial gift:** I'm aiming to raise (\$___ by [date]) to help cover the cost of the event, travel, and other necessary expenses. If you're able to give, gifts of \$100, \$150, or any amount are deeply appreciated—no gift is too small!

If you'd like to donate, you can do so by (give detailed instructions here).

I'll plan to check in with you around the week of (Date) just to answer any questions or share updates. Whether you're able to give or simply keep me in prayer, thank you for being a part of my life and for supporting me on this journey.

With love and gratitude,
[Your Name]

APPENDIX // SAMPLE // Phone Ask

“Hi (Aunt Lucy), it’s (Your Name)—how are you?”

(Allow for a quick exchange of small talk, but gently move the conversation forward.)

“I’m so glad to hear that! I just wanted to follow up and see if you happened to receive the letter I sent about my upcoming trip to Life Teen Leadership Conference?”

(If yes) – “That’s great! I’m really looking forward to this experience—it’s going to be an amazing opportunity to grow in faith and grow in my leadership ability. I wanted to check in to see if you had any questions and if you’d be interested in supporting me.”

(If no) – “No worries! I’d love to quickly tell you a little bit about it. I’ve been invited to go to Life Teen Leadership Conference, where I’ll be able to grow spiritually, gain valuable leadership and formation skills, and deepen my relationship with God. It’s a big step for me, and I’m asking for both prayer and financial support to help make it possible.”

If they say **YES** to giving:

“Thank you so much! That means a lot to me. My goal is to raise (\$??), and I’m keeping track of the gifts I receive. Would you consider making a gift of (\$250 or another suggested amount)? Every bit really helps!”

(Feel free to adjust the amount depending on your relationship or what’s realistic.)

“There are two ways you can give: (give instructions here)”

(Make sure to explain clearly what they should include with a check: your name and the event name in the memo line.)

If they say **NO** or can’t give financially right now:

“I totally understand, and I really appreciate you taking the time to talk with me. Even if financial support isn’t possible right now, would you consider praying for me and for everyone going on this trip? That kind of support means so much.”

(End with warmth and gratitude.)

“Thank you again, (Aunt Lucy). I’m really grateful for your encouragement. I’ll keep you posted as I prepare for the trip!”

APPENDIX // SAMPLE // Thank You Note

Dear (*Aunt Lucy*),

Include something personal first...

Thank you for joining as a member of my LTLC Support Team! Your prayers and financial generosity are deeply appreciated. Your partnership will have a wide impact as I travel to Benedictine College to grow through prayer, mentorship, and practical training.

Please join me in praying for the Conference, and let me know if you have any prayer requests you'd like me to bring to prayer!

God bless,
[Your Name]

APPENDIX // SAMPLE // Follow Up Newsletter

Hello!

I wanted to take a moment to say thank you for supporting me and helping make it possible for me to attend the Life Teen Leadership Conference this year. Because of your generosity, I was able to spend meaningful time growing in my faith, learning how to lead, and being encouraged alongside other teens who want to follow Jesus.

[PHOTO #1 – group photo or worship moment]

LTLC wasn't just about leadership skills — it was about learning how to be a better disciple. Through prayer, talks, small groups, and worship, I was reminded that leadership starts with knowing who I am in Christ and learning how to serve others with humility and courage.

One of the most impactful parts of the conference for me was _____. It challenged me to think more deeply about my faith and how I can live it out at school, at church, and at home.

[PHOTO #2 – speaker, small group, or prayer moment]

Because of this experience, I feel more confident in my faith and more excited to be involved in my parish and youth ministry. I'm leaving LTLC with new friendships, a renewed desire to pray, and a clearer understanding of how God is calling me to lead by example.

[PHOTO #3 – fun or candid moment, optional]

Thank you again for investing in me. Your support truly made a difference, and I'm so grateful for your prayers and encouragement. Please know that I will continue to pray for you as well.

With gratitude,
[Student Name]
[Parish Name]