

so, is it about the money?

It's not really about the money.

Well, to be honest, it sort of *is* about the money.

You see, being a Church, we don't do things like, say, have the bishop wear a Nike logo on his vestments, or a NAPA auto parts logo on his mitre, just to add a few royalties to the coffer like an Olympic basketball player.

The lector doesn't precede the first reading by saying, "The following is brought to you by a grant from the Gates Foundation," and the priest doesn't stop in mid-homily to advertise Folgers Coffee or Lux Dish-soap:

"As it says in the book of John, 'But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleans us from all sin.'

"And speaking of cleanliness, if you're having trouble getting that hard, dried on food off of your dishes, try Lux liquid detergent. You too can take the work out of dish washing!"

The only thing the Church is trying to sell is the Truth of God's unlimited love for each and every one of us. The Church is charging us with the gift of Christ's admonition to serve the poor, to serve each other with compassion and Christ-like charity.

IT'S ABOUT PRAYER

The Vibrant Ministries -- Uniting Our Church appeal is about money, to be sure, but money is only a means to an end. The ultimate goal is about supporting our sisters and brothers in Christ in Southwest Kansas.

Not everyone can hand over a check for \$1,000 or \$100, or even \$10 -- not when there are people who have to decide between paying for food and paying their heating bills. We understand that.

What we all can do is to pray. What a wonderful gift to give to the appeal: prayer.

At left is a form that has been sent to all Catholic schools in the Diocese of Dodge City that makes a simple request from our children. We're asking children and their families to offer special prayers of support for the Vibrant Ministries -- Uniting Our Church Appeal.

Please take a look at the form and consider offering your own daily prayers for the success of the appeal. And as always, please prayerfully consider offering your financial support to the ministries of the Catholic Diocese of Dodge City through the Vibrant Ministries -- Uniting Our Church Appeal.