

Diocese of Galveston-Houston

Office of Development

Thursday, February 22, 2001

Statement of Recommendation

Guidance In Giving is an excellent firm for diocesan-wide campaigns. They enabled the Diocese of Galveston-Houston, with a campaign goal of \$70 million, to successfully complete and exceed \$100 million.

The members of the firm were very attentive to the pastors, priests, lay leaders and people of each parish. Understanding the many pressures at that level, they demonstrated the ability to dialogue and adapt to each parish's needs.

Their commitment to the parish, diocese and people was clearly demonstrated by their attendance at non-campaign parish functions like Sunday masses and festivities. They acculturated themselves by attending civic functions so as to solicit funds with a command of the socio-economic base of the diocese.

The maturity of the firm was clearly evidenced by their ability to organize a large campaign in a large diocese. With 10 counties, 165 parishes and approximately 2 million Catholics, the task was formidable.

The leadership of the firm was very cooperative, even when promised requests could not be fulfilled on time. The leadership kept everyone's eyes on the goal, regardless of the problems. This focus kept a positive energy in the campaign that sustained all during even the most intense periods.

I recommend Guidance In Giving as a fundraising firm. Should you wish further information or recommendation, please do not hesitate to call on me.

Sincerely yours,

Rev. Carl L. Pieber, C.M., Ph.D.

Director, Office of Development



St. Thomas the Apostle Parish Diocese of Amarillo

January 31, 2005

Msgr. Joseph Tash Pastor

4100 Coulter Dr. Amarillo, TX 79109 (806) 358-2461 Mr. Michael Cusack President and CO Guidance in Giving Inc. 225 Snedecor Avenue Bayport, New York 11705

Dear Mike,

On behalf of the Diocese of Amarillo I would like to thank you personally for all of planning and work that went into our campaign. Needles to say surpassing our goal of \$5 million would not have been possible without the expert assistance from you and your team.

Your associates, Dan Inman, Joe Dunworth and Connor Savage were professional in every way possible. The priests in the diocese have commented how easy it was to work with them and they voiced that appreciation during a recent meeting of the priests.

I must admit that when we set the goal several months ago, I had a few doubts because of the enormity of that goal. However, once your team arrived and visited with us and the leadership of the diocese, I was convinced, that with God's help, we would succeed.

Again my personal thanks for making all this happen. Be assured of our prayers for your continued success.

Sincerely,

Msgr. Joseph Jash

Msgr. Joseph Tash

Campaign Chairman



Diocese of Galveston-Houston

Office of the Bishop March 15, 2001

Mr. Michael R. Cusack Guidance In Giving 225 Snedecor Avenue Bayport, New York 11705

Dear Mr. Cusack,

It is a special pleasure for me to highly recommend <u>Guidance In Giving</u> to any diocese or parish that is considering a fund raising campaign. Our diocesan campaign has been a tremendous success. As of this date, we have raised in pledges \$101,000.000.00 which far surpasses our goal of \$75,000.000.00. The success of the campaign makes me believe that I set our goal too low.

However, the real success of the campaign was not in surpassing the goal, but in the good relations that were established between the parishes and the members of your firm. In every parish, priest and people were tremendously impressed with the sincere interest your people demonstrated not only in helping the parish reach its goal, but in the very life of the parish itself. I heard no complaints about the way in which your staff conducted themselves, even with priests who were not fully cooperative with the program. This is a great compliment to your firm.

I have no hesitation in recommending <u>Guidance In Giving</u>. I am confident that any bishop or pastor who would engage your firm to assist them in fund raising will be as fully satisfied as I am not only with successful results, but also with the experience of working with your firm.

Wishing you every success, I am

Sincerely yours,

Most Reverend Joseph A. Fiorenza Bishop of Galveston-Houston

JAF:baf



ST. JAMES CATHOLIC CHURCH

We are a Catholic Community.

As the Body of Christ
We proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Mr. Michael Cusack President Guidance In Giving 225 Snedecor Avenue Bayport, New York 11704

Dear Mr. Cusack,

What a Spirit filled year this has been working with you and Guidance in Giving. St. James the Apostle Catholic Church has exceeded all expectations.

As a parish, we have had difficulty meeting our Diocesan Service Fund every year of \$59,000.00. However, under your "Guidance" we have been successful in not only meeting our goal of \$556,000, but we have superceded that and raised \$800,000.00 in pledges. In addition, may I add, the pledge payments are coming in. This is directly due your company showing our people how to reach out using Stewardship values.

With the leadership of Guidance In Giving, the receptions were a good forum to give all the parishioners the opportunity to be included in the process and helped tremendously with the understanding of exactly how their gift would benefit all. The "In the Pew" appeal contributed to more sharing as parishioners saw their neighbors supporting this endeavor. I believe this encouraged them in their decision to sacrifice for the good of all. This gave them an active role in the process.

The parish-sharing concept has made parishioners and pastors eager to give and promote this win-win situation. This has encouraged me to speak on behalf of Bishop Fiorenza at other churches besides my own. People are very receptive to this sharing idea.

The Stewardship Council and myself have enjoyed working with all of the fine people at Guidance In Giving and especially Aaron Galetta. Thank you for working so hard to keep our lives Christ centered and our faith alive. Should other pastors want to speak with me about your company, please feel free to have them call me.

May this letter serve to formally acknowledge Aaron Galetta's refined skills in laboring amongst the laity. He will continue to be a fine asset to your company.

Sincerely in Christ,

Rev. Frank X. Quezada

Prince of Peace Catholic Community



19222 Tomball Parkway . Houston, TX 77070-3510 . 281/469-2686 . Fax: 281/469-8418

November 14, 2000

To Whom It May Concern:

Guidance in Giving, Inc. directed the successful Capital Campaign "Celebrating Our Faith in the Third Millennium" for the Diocese of Galveston-Houston. Our parish was blessed by our exceeding our goal, currently by 20.7%. This fantastic result was made possible by the outstanding efforts of their Parish Director, Aaron M. Galletta.

Aaron truly went out of his way to ensure our success. His counsel, support, assistance and encouragement to our internal Campaign Committee were key elements in keeping them focused and motivated. His ability to easily, and in a very friendly way, communicate with all levels of our parishioners helped tremendously in conveying the message to them in a very positive way.

Without any hesitation, Aaron and his organization are a group of dedicated professionals who produce results. I am truly a better person for my path having crossed with Aaron.

Sincerely,

Robert H. McCarthy

Director of Administration

Resur H. Frelance

St. Joseph on the Brazos Catholic Church

Route 4 Box 4100 Brazoria, Texas 77422 979-798-2288 Fax 979-798-2271

December 11, 2000

Mr. Michael Cusack, President Guidance in Giving, Inc. 225 Snedecor Avenue Bayport, New York 11705

Dear Mr. Cusack,

This letter is written to recommend Joseph Mickanis as a professional fund raising consultant. Our diocese, the diocese of Galveston-Houston, worked with Joseph and his associates on our "Celebrating Our Faith in the Third Millennium" Capital Campaign and he did an outstanding job. Joseph was assigned to our parish in Brazoria, Texas, along with several other parishes in the Southern Deanery of our diocese.

The campaign goal for our parish was first thought unattainable. Through the efforts of Joseph working with our local campaign committee, our goal will be surpassed at St. Joseph's on the Brazos. The Special Gifts Reception was a unique way to allow parishioners to feel special and touched families that could make sizable gifts to the campaign. Likewise, the In-Pew Solicitation, with its prior mailing and handouts, served as a great catalyst to inform the parishioners of the Bishop's and various parishes' needs in this campaign.

I highly recommend Joseph Mickanis as a competent professional fund raising consultant. We enjoyed having him on our team!

Sincerely,

Rev. Tin Pham



St. Patrick Catholic Church

Diocese of Galveston - Houston 1010 35th Street Galveston, Texas 77550 (409) 762-9646

December 11, 2000

Mr. Michael R. Cusack President Guidance In Giving, Inc. 225 Snedecor Avenue Bayport, New York 11705

Dear Mr. Cusack:

I arrived in the Diocese of Galveston-Houston in late July, 2000, to assume the position of Pastor of St. Patrick Church in Galveston, Texas. One of the first things I learned was that the diocese was in the middle of an ambitious capital campaign, Celebrating Our Faith in the Third Millennium, with a goal of \$70 million.

The next thing that I learned was that our parish would be kicking off its part in the capital campaign on the weekend of October 14-15, with a parish goal of \$563,024. I quickly began to hear remarks that all of this was unattainable.

As I began to work with our Parish Director from Guidance In Giving, Inc., Daniel E. Inman, I learned that the diocese was experiencing wonderful success and would surpass its goal of \$70 million. In working with Dan in our parish over the past several months, I grew in my respect for him and your company. The service provided the diocese and me personally was outstanding.

I have no hesitation nor reservation about recommending Guidance In Giving, Inc. and its staff as a very capable professional organization for help in organizing and bringing to completion a successful capital campaign at a diocesan or parish level. My experience has only been positive. With every best wish, I am

Sincerely,

Lohn Bok, O.F.M.

TBY DYM.

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church

310 N. McKinney St. Sweeny, Texas 77480 409/548-2020

Guidance in Giving, Inc. 225 Snedecor Avenue Bayport, NY 11705

December 12, 2000

To Whom It May Concern:

Our Lady of Perpetual Help and its mission parish of St. John the Apostle, in the Diocese of Galveston Houston, Texas participated in a Diocesan capital campaign. Your consultant firm of Guidance and Giving gave us the materials and the consultants to make the campaign, "Celebrating Our Faith In The Third Millennium" a success.

Throughout the campaign, from the beginning stage to the final stage, the dealing with all campaign staff on the parish level was professional, courteous, helpful, and concerned. The parish director was always available and ready to assist and explain the steps necessary to begin the campaign in our parishes. The parish director for our area was Mr. Joseph Mickanis.

I will like to commend Mr. Joseph Mickanis, for his help, support and recommendations that made my parish participation a success. Mr. Makanis was knowledgeable on the Diocesan plan, its needs, purpose and objective. He was organized and well prepared. As parish director and working in these country parishes he had a keen sense of the people he was working with. He was very sensitive to the issues and people of both my parishes. He was patient and listened even when challenges arose. He handled himself in a very professional manner and non-confrontive but was active listener. Mr. Joseph Mickanis, has my highest recommendation and support. It was a pleasure working with Mr. Joseph Mickanis and I wish him well in his future. Thank you for your time and attention and if there are any questions please contact me.

Sincerely Yours,

Frizee A Flore

St. Peter the Apostle Church

1804 69th Street Galveston, Texas 77551-1326 (409) 744-3561 Fax (409) 744-4286

January 17, 2001

Guidance in Giving, Inc. 225 Snedecor Avenue Bayport NY 11705

To Whom It May Concern:

Our parish has been participating in our Diocesan Capital Campaign, Celebrating our Faith. I would like to thank our Diocesan Parish Representative, Dan Inman for his assistance and guidance for this project.

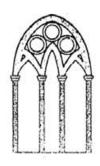
We entered this campaign a little skeptical as to whether or not we would be able to approach our parishioners and ask them to help us attain the goal that the diocese had set for us. Dan met with the committee and answered our questions and help us come up with ideas to present the campaign to our parish is a way that would relate to them personally. We appreciate his expertise and his patients with us.

I met many times with Dan, and he was always informative and helpful. He went out of his way to assist me in any way that he could. He came down weekly and kept me informed of everything that should be going on.

I am satisfied with the process your company used and the outcome of the campaign so far. I think that result is because of the work that Dan Inman did with us in the parish. Your company was well represented.

Respectfully,

Rev. William D. Bartniski



St. Pius V Catholic Church

824 South Main Pasadena, Texas 77506 (713) 473-9484 / fax (713)473-2731

Michael R. Cusack, President Guidance in Giving 225 Snedecor Avenue Bayport, New York 11705

Dear Mr. Cusack:

I am delighted to write to you of the great pleasure it has been to work with Guidance In Giving during the "Celebrating Our Faith in the Third Millennium" campaign of the Diocese of Galveston-Houston.

The process outlined by your company is both simple and effective. The combination of presentations of need, both by a Diocesan representative or video and the pastor, together with an informed and informative presentation by a representative of your company was clearly understood and quite impressive. Our people enjoyed the Special gift and parish wide receptions - not only because of the refreshments, but because the pastor, under your guidance, cared enough to recognize their past giving while he sought a commitment to the campaign.

My personal joy in this campaign was the pleasure to work with Ms. Dawn Minor of your company. She treated me, our parish staff and our parishioners with respect and kindness. She was well informed regarding the process of the campaign. She took a special interest in St. Pius and carefully and consistently worked in person with me. In the midst of a campaign in which our parish goal seemed unreachable, Dawn was the source of information and encouragement.

I appreciate most of all, that from the very beginning of the campaign on every level, members of Guidance In Giving, without being bold or presumptuous, exhibited a confidence and trust that St. Pius V and the diocese would meet, even exceed, our goals.

It was/is a pleasure to have been assisted with Guidance In Giving.

Sincerely, Lubert Nearly

Rev. Hubert J. Kealy, Pastor

St. Paul Catholic Community

18223 POINT LOOKOUT DRIVE HOUSTON, TEXAS 77058-3594 (281) 333-3891



Michael Cusak, President Guidance in Giving, Inc. 225 Snedecor Ave. Bayport, New York 11705

Dear Mr. Cusak.

On behalf of our parish Capital Campaign Committee, I want to express our appreciation to you for assigning Dan Inman to help us not only achieve our goal of \$688,576.00 but exceed that goal by \$287,818.00! At first we thought that the goal was something beyond our capability, but with Dan's calming patient style, he showed us how a well-run organization can produce greater results.

Dan did not come in and told us how things have to be done. He showed us all the options of proven techniques from his experience that would guarantee success. This man helped build our confidence, he continuously praised all the participants, he kept in touch with our staff each week to offer help. Truly, our parish was blessed by the unselfish sharing of his talents and gifts.

I know that other parishes will experience the same results that we had. With people like Dan Inman on your team, your mission statement will echo throughout the country.

Sincerely,

Rev. Dominic J. Pistone, Jr.



St. Edward Catholic Community

November 8, 2000

Guidance in Giving, Inc. 225 Snedecor Avenue Bayport, NY 11705

To Whom It May Concern:

St. Edward Catholic Church is a parish located within the Diocese of Galveston-Houston. In January of 2000, the Diocese of Galveston Houston retained Guidance in Giving, Inc. to direct its first ever diocesan-wide capital campaign. This letter is submitted as an enthusiastic recommendation for the professional fund raising consultant firm, Guidance in Giving.

Throughout the entire campaign, from beginning stage to final stage, the dealing with all campaign staff on the parish level was professional, courteous, helpful, and concerned. A great deal of thoughtfulness and care was exhibited in working with myself and staff so as to assemble success without causing difficulties. I was especially grateful and impressed to work with Aaron Galletta. His professionalism, skill and talent make the project so much easier.

Methods employed by Guidance in Giving, Inc. such as Special Gift Receptions and In-Pew Programs were well received by parishioners and proved to be extremely successful. Through the use of methods such as these and the aid of campaign staff members, our parish was able to well surpass its pre-determined goal within a reasonable period of time.

Again, Guidance in Giving, Inc. receives my highest recommendation. If you would like any further information, please feel free to contact me at the address below.

Sincerely yours,

Rev. Joseph A. Gietl

St. Jude Thaddeus Catholic Church

November 14, 2000

Guidance In Giving 225 Snedecor Avenue Bayport, New York 11705

Attention: Chris Hayes

Dear Chris,

Where did the time go? It was not too long ago that we were informed by His Excellency, Bishop Fiorenza, that the Diocese of Galveston-Houston would "Celebrate Our Faith in the Third Millennium" with a fund raising capital campaign. As pastors, many of us, understandably, had anxieties about this project. But I truly believe that trust in the goodness of the Lord and of our parishioners, and the skills of the Guidance In Giving, put us at ease and made the campaign at St. Jude Thaddeus Parish a success. As of this month, we have achieved 126% of our goal of \$206,953, that is, 153 families have pledged \$261,799.

I want to thank you Chris, for being our campaign director, for your competence and persistence in carrying out all the details of the campaign. I was truly impressed with all the well-planned activities of "Guidance In Giving", and with the implementation of them in the diocese and in our parish. The "Reception Phase" was indeed important to the success of our campaign, as well as the "In Pew Appeal".

I'm happy that our diocese is successfully "Celebrating Our Faith in the Third Millennium" with the campaign worked by the professional consultants of "Guidance In Giving". I wholeheartedly recommend the services of your firm to any diocese or parish, which needs to challenge people to give of their time, talent, and treasure. You did a good job Chris, as well as all the other campaign directors.

With prayerful good wishes, I am

Sincerely yours and in Our Lord,

trather John

Rev. John Zabelskas



ST. FRANCIS XAVIER CATHOLIC CHURCH

Diocese of Galveston - Houston

November 27, 2000

To Whom It May Concern:

Joseph Mickanis has asked that I write a letter of recommendation based on our professional association over the past several months. I have found Mr. Mickanis to be a hardworking professional. He has demonstrated a high degree of dedication to his work and to his associates.

It is my opinion that Guidance In Giving and Joseph Michanis have served St. Francis Xavier parish well, and played an imperative roll in our successful kickoff for the Diocese of Galveston-Houston's Capital Campaign.

Again, the service given us by Guidance In Giving and Joseph Michanis was excellent.

Rev. Kenner of Howard, SSO.

Very Rev. Kenneth J. Howard, SSJ



Sacred Heart Church

Diocese of Galveston-Houston

507 South Fourth Street • Richmond, Texas 77469-3599 Church (281) 342-3609 • C.C.E. Office (281) 342-8371 • Fax (281) 342-9833

September 11, 2000

To Whom It May Concern:

I would like to comment on Guidance in Giving Inc. and its relationship to Sacred Heart parish during the course of the Celebrating Our Faith campaign of the Diocese of Galveston-Houston.

Sacred Heart parish found itself in the unique position during this time in having to both pay off outstanding debt as well as meet its obligation to the effort of the Diocese. In meeting this challenge, Sacred Heart chose to run a campaign of its own using a previously utilized format.

Guidance in Giving worked extensively with the chairman of our campaign in helping us obtain the success that we required. Stephen Babcock from Guidance In Giving gave us needed advice and although we did not directly use his company's services, still was available as a liaison with the Diocese development office. He and his staff made themselves available to answer questions at the parish functions that were held for the campaign.

I would eagerly recommend Guidance In Giving Inc. as a resource to help in any fund raising efforts on both the parish as well as diocesan level.

Sincerely,

Fr Howard E Drabek

ASSUMPTION CHURCH DIOCESE OF GALVESTON-HOUSTON 901 ROSE LANE HOUSTON, TEXAS 77037

Nov. 22, 2000

Michael R. Cusack, President Giudance in Giving, Inc. 225 Snedecor Avenue Bayport, NY 11705

Dear Mr. Cusack,

I am writing this letter to share some thoughts concerning the *Celebrating Our Faith in the Third Millennium Campaign* held in the Diocese of Galveston-Houston and to which Assumption Catholic Church participated. Our parish leadership team has contributed to these thoughts.

Ms. Dawn Miner, parish director from Guidance in Giving, was very friendly and courteous to all of us at Assumption, the team and myself, both volunteer and on staff. She responded to our messages promptly; she was always available, helpful and resourceful in providing advice on how to plan and prepare for the various phases of the campaign. Very interesting among these were the "Reception phase" and the "In Pew Appeal." Both of these stages were quite challenging to the team and our parishioners; we certainly welcomed Dawn's firm yet flexible direction.

Ms. Miner had a primary role in guiding us as we started the campaign, indicating who and how many parishioners should be invited to the receptions. Then, during the receptions, she made meaningful and clear presentations about the purpose and mechanics of the campaign. Since our parish has a large Spanish speaking congregation, Dawn's fluency in Spanish was of absolute relevance for the success of the campaign. She showed a very special attention to our needs and requests in this area. I am deeply grateful for her sincere efforts to assist us in any way she could.

Overall, we are quite pleased with this process and certainly with the outcome of this campaign.

In Christ,

Fr. Italo Dell'Oro, CRS

Pastor

Cc: Dawn Miner

ST. BENEDICT THE ABBOT CATHOLIC CHURCH

4025 GRAPEVINE HOUSTON, TEXAS 77045-6320 (713) 433-9836 FAX (713) 433-3949

November 28, 2000

Guidance in Giving 225 Snedecor Avenue Bayport, New York 11705

RECOMMENDATION FOR DAWN MINER (GUIDANCE IN GIVING CAMPAIGN DIRECTOR)

Dear Sir or Madam:

As the Pastor of the above mentioned parish, I worked with **Dawn Miner**, the Director of Guidance in Giving Campaign for quite some time. She has been involved in the diocesan capital campaign, and we were very lucky to have her for our contact person and director. She challenged us to revisit our Christian commitment in areas of time, talent, and treasure.

Dawn did a wonderful job of organizing, mobilizing, and challenging us as a parish to get involved in the diocesan capital campaign sacrificial giving. She impressed me and the parishioners with her faith, and she is a person who has her heart where her words are. She is gifted with the ability and the skills necessary for a challenging job like hers. I, personally, think that she is an asset and the right person that one would want to have for the spiritual, pastoral, and financial growth of the parish. She used her insight and foresight very well to challenge us as the parish to become better thinkers and planners in areas of time, talent, and treasure.

The whole Guidance in Giving team is a hard working team, committed, and with a rewarding vision in the pastoral life of the Church. The "Reception Phases" and "In Pew Appeals" are very effective means of reaching people, and I think they are perfectly practical skills for campaign.

I thank Dawn and her team for blessing our diocese and especially our parish with their giftedness.

Sincerely,

Fr. Kitira Gabriel, CSSp.

Ar. Kiting CSSp

St. Mary's Catholic Church

Office & Mailing: 1604 9th Avenue North Church: 3rd Avenue and 8th Street Texas City, Texas 77590 (409) 948-8448

December 4, 2000

Guidance In Giving, Inc. 225 Snedecor Ave. Bayport, NY 11705

To Whom It May Concern:

Our Diocese of Galveston-Houston has grown much and rapidly in the past 20-30 years. Even with this recognition of growth and the needs that arise with such growth. I think most of us pastors had our doubts about running a capital campaign with a goal of \$70,000,000. And then as the parish goals were revealed there was even more trepidation.

As the main portion of our campaign is now coming to a conclusion it is obvious that the expertise and experience of Guidance In Giving, Inc. has been very successful for us. We were the beneficiaries of that experience. Our parish goal was reached in a short period of time. However, our parish committee received a lot of information and help from our account executive, Dan Inman. He was always available by phone and took part in most our parish committee meetings.

I personally found Dan very helpful and informative. There wasn't anything he wouldn't do to help us. Our weekly contacts were extremely valuable for me. Dan always operated on a very professional level, always courteous, helpful and friendly.

The methods of your company seemed to be very complete. The videos, the mailings, the various talks all helped to reach the entire parish community. All of that put together spelled success for us having reached 117% of our goal in only five weeks since the official Pledge Sunday.

I am very pleased with the process and of course, the outcome of this campaign. Even though I had my doubts, I am impressed. I appreciate the help received from your company, and especially Dan Inman, in making the "Celebrating Our Faith in the Third Millennium" campaign so successful.

Sincerely, Fr. Ralph Schmidt

Rev. Ralph G. Schmidt, Jr.



St. Mary's Cathedral Basilica 1847 2011 Church Street Galbeston, Texas 77550

December 7, 2000

Re:

Guidance in Giving

Professional Fund Raising Consultants

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is written to recommend the above-referenced fund raising consultants. This group, and in particular, Dan Inman, who worked with 151 parishes in our Diocese on our "Celebrating our Faith Campaign 2000" and did an outstanding job. This campaign has been extremely successful for the Diocese of Galveston-Houston, as well as the various parishes that will benefit from the fund raising. The campaign has surpassed its goal.

One of the aspects of the campaign, which was very effective, was the Special Gift Receptions and the In-Pew Solicitation program. The special Gift Receptions were a unique way to allow the Bishop to meet with and touch those families who could make sizeable gifts to the campaign. Likewise, the In-Pew solicitation, with its prior mailings and handouts, served as a great catalyst to inform the parishioners of the Bishop's needs in this campaign.

Dan Inman, as Director for the Diocesan Campaign, made every effort to be available to myself and to the members of my parish who were involved in our own portion of the campaign. He worked diligently to coordinate meetings and events with our needs. He was always available to assist if we had any questions.

I highly recommend Guidance in Giving and Dan Inman should your parish or diocese need the services of a competent professional fund raising consultant firm.

Sincerely,

Fr. John N. LaBauve, S.V.D.

Priest-in-Charge

JNLAB/cvhjr

St. Ambrose Roman Catholic Church

4213 Mangum Road Houston, Texas 77092-5599 Phone (713) 686-3497 Fax (713) 686-6604

December 7, 2000

Mr. Dan Inmann Guidance in Giving P. O. Box 907 Houston, TX 77001

Dear Mr. Inman,

I wish to speak for the Catholic Community of St. Theresa Church, in Houston Texas and thank you for your leadership in our diocesan capital campaign, Celebrating Our Faith.

The parish's participation was a tremendous challenge in light of the fact that they were just completing their new Community Center and were struggling with their capacity to meet their commitment to that goal. To have a second large goal set by the Bishop meant that the parishioners would have to be dealt with very diplomatically.

As I'm sure you recall, my first encounters with Guidance in Giving left much to be desired. Your ability to listen and to hear us out was a tremendous help to me personally. It helped relieve the tensions & anxieties and helped the parish set its goals and focus its energies on the job at hand. Your diplomacy, patience and gentle guidance was just what the parishioners & staff needed to help us rise to the challenge. We appreciate your expertise and your personal involvement. We are proud to boast that we, of all parishes assigned to you in this campaign, were the first to reach and surpass our goal.

Feel free to use this note as a letter of recommendation as the need arises.

We wish you God's blessings as you continue to help others in your work. Keep us in your prayers.

Sincerely,

Rev. Benjamin Smaistrla

Former Pastor of St. Theresa Church