2020 Annual Appeal

Our Cathedral • Our Responsibility
Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I’m writing to ask you to make a pledge, a financial commitment, to our Cathedral for 2020. There are many kinds, and many levels, of commitment in a Christian community. While we welcome everyone and encourage people to take their time getting to know us, eventually we all need to make a commitment – for our own good, and for others. We commit to pray for one another; take care of one another; reach out to those in need; bring up our children in the knowledge and love of God; and go deeper on our own spiritual journeys. We’re on this journey together, and it’s a life-long journey.

And we need – every one of us – to make a financial commitment to the Cathedral so our life together can continue and flourish. This is where we are living out our life in Christ, right here, right now, with these particular people and in this particular place. Our predecessors left us a beautiful building and a goodly heritage. Now it’s up to us.

The Cathedral needs our financial support to keep going. It’s that simple. Pledges account for about half our budget; the rest comes from various rentals (e.g. the Montessori school); events; and our not-very-big endowment (and we are taking about the limit of what is financially prudent from it). It’s a tight budget, too; there’s no wiggle-room.

We each need to pledge because the Cathedral needs it; there’s no rich uncle waiting in the wings. And – equally important – we each need to pledge because we need to do so.

I come from a long line of Scots, and it shows: we’re a tight-fisted bunch. (Well, there was one lone Anglican, which is how I wound up here, but that’s another story.) It’s taken me a very long time to open up that tightly-clenched fist. I preach it, so I figure I better practice it: Christ calls us to extravagant generosity and giving is better than receiving. I have become a tither, giving away 10% of my income to Christ’s work in the world (in my case, about half to the church, and half to other agencies and people). So I can report truthfully: I gain so much more than I give. Giving first and giving generously frees me and opens me to God’s love in new ways. I’m asking you to give, too, for spiritual reasons, for your very soul.

I’m asking you to give for clear financial and organizational reasons, and for spiritual reasons. And guess what? You will find that the line between them is blurred, and the things of our bodies and souls, spiritual life and temporal life, really are one.

Take a step in faith, and make your commitment to our beloved Cathedral for 2020. Now.

Yours in Christ,
Lucinda+  
The Very Reverend Lucinda Laird. Dean & Rector of the American Cathedral in Paris

What is Stewardship?

The Episcopal Church says stewardship is “what I do, with all that I have, after I say ‘I believe.’ ” and “using the gifts God has given us, to do the work God is calling us to do.”

What do we do with all that we have been given, and how do we do God’s work in the world?

Part of good stewardship is being part of a church community, and supporting it with our time, our energy, and our money. We have a wonderful community and a very special heritage to pass on here at the American Cathedral. Every one of us is called to awareness of what we have been given, and to share. We are the Cathedral, and we open it to the world to share.

Financial contributions can take several forms:
- Making an Annual Pledge
- Becoming a Friend (for those visiting Paris or leaving the city)
- Joining the Trinity Society and making a bequest

Tax Deductibility

Contributions to the Cathedral receive generous income tax treatment in France. As an individual donor, you receive an income tax credit equal to 66% of the amount of your gift, for contributions up to a maximum of 20% of your total taxable income.

Contributions to the Cathedral are also deductible for US income tax purposes to the fullest extent permitted by law. Please consult your tax advisor to confirm how these rules apply to your situation.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pledge paid in EUROS</th>
<th>French tax credit</th>
<th>Net cost of pledge</th>
<th>Per MONTH after French tax credit</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>500 €</td>
<td>330 €</td>
<td>170 €</td>
<td>14 €</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 000 €</td>
<td>660 €</td>
<td>340 €</td>
<td>28 €</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 500 €</td>
<td>990 €</td>
<td>510 €</td>
<td>42.50 €</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 500 €</td>
<td>1 650 €</td>
<td>850 €</td>
<td>71 €</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 000 €</td>
<td>1 980 €</td>
<td>1 020 €</td>
<td>85 €</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 000 €</td>
<td>3 300 €</td>
<td>1 700 €</td>
<td>142 €</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 000 €</td>
<td>6 600 €</td>
<td>3 400 €</td>
<td>283 €</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
How do I Pledge?

Making a pledge is easy. You can fill out a physical pledge card and drop it into the plate on Sunday or mail it to the Cathedral. Or, you can simply go to the Cathedral website and submit your pledge electronically at amcathparis.com/membership-pledge-form.

You can pay your pledge in weekly or monthly installments or you can choose to pay in full when you submit your pledge or later. You can make payments by check, credit card or bank transfer. No gift is too small.

Why Pledging Matters

An annual pledge differs from other charitable contributions. It is both a spiritual practice and a practical way to support the life and work of our Cathedral. For our warm and inclusive congregation to flourish, we need members to give generously of their time, talent and treasure. Gifts of all sizes are meaningful and contribute to the health of our common life. In 2020, we would like to expand our member base in order to rely less on a core group of large pledges. Every year, members from our international community move abroad decreasing the number of pledging households. Your pledge enables us to plan for the future!

At the American Cathedral in Paris, good stewardship makes it possible to open our spiritual home to Paris and the world.

A Snapshot of the Cathedral’s 2019 Standalone Budget

The table below shows the principal sources of income and expense items for the Cathedral.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cathedral Funding</th>
<th>Euros</th>
<th>Ordinary Expenses</th>
<th>Euros</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pledges</td>
<td>513 000</td>
<td>Clergy and staff costs</td>
<td>499 362</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plate and donations</td>
<td>76 000</td>
<td>Buildings and grounds</td>
<td>231 800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Core Mission space</td>
<td>29 800</td>
<td>Music program</td>
<td>149 660</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Development &amp; Friends</td>
<td>62 000</td>
<td>Other programs</td>
<td>44 610</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Designated income</td>
<td>49 070</td>
<td>Administration</td>
<td>140 166</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special liturgies</td>
<td>85 300</td>
<td>Convocation assessment</td>
<td>98 687</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other income</td>
<td>2 500</td>
<td>Mission &amp; Outreach</td>
<td>51 300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACPS Entity</td>
<td></td>
<td>Miscellaneous</td>
<td>4 736</td>
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<tr>
<td>Space rental revenue</td>
<td>214 000</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Cathedral Foundation Funding

Cathedral operations support 134 700
Mission & Outreach support 51 300

Total Ordinary Funding 1 217 670
Total Ordinary Expenses 1 220 321

Other Financial Details

Budgeted result for the year -2 651
Budgeted daily cost of running the Cathedral in 2019 3 203
Target pledge total for 2020 550 000

Total pledged for 2019* 549 500
Number of pledging households in 2019 225
Average pledge in 2019 2 401

*this figure is not an indication of payments received
FAQs

What is a pledge?
A pledge is a financial commitment to the Cathedral for the year ahead. The Vestry depends on pledge commitments to accurately prepare an operating budget that supports our ministries and day-to-day operations.

A pledge is a moral, not a contractual, commitment. Your circumstances may change during the year, permitting you to give more, or less, than your pledge.

Why should I pledge when I regularly put money in the offering plate?
Loose funds collected each week help support the ongoing life of the parish. However, pledges are critical because they enable us to plan responsibly and to establish a sustainable annual budget.

How much should I pledge?
Giving is a spiritual practice that should be prayerfully considered. Scripture encourages proportionate giving or giving a percentage of one’s income as an act of thanksgiving for the bounty we have received with the tithe (10%) as a goal.

Do I have to pay my pledge all at once?
No. Many people fulfill their pledge weekly, monthly, or quarterly. Some use offering envelopes or set up a regular payment schedule by bank transfer or credit card.