

# TEN IDEAS TO KEEP THE FUN IN FUNDRAISING

A RESOURCE FOR YOUTH MINISTRY PROGRAMS PREPARING TO ATTEND NCCY

1

## *Make It Fun Every Step of the Way*

Fun is part of fundraising. Try to keep it from feeling like a chore by planning fun things to do during each stage of the process that reward everyone.

2

## *Crazy Incentives*

Offer a "Cream Pie Attack" party to all sellers reaching a certain level. Other incentives include having the youth ministry leader shave their head, dye their hair blue, wear a funny wig, dress like a clown, risk the dunking booth, etc.

3

## *Take Pictures*

Everyone likes to see themselves in pictures. Take some candid shots, have everybody pose, act silly for a group photo, etc. Be sure to post them on the parish bulletin board or website where everyone can enjoy them.

4

## *Show Appreciation*

Show your appreciation to parishioners, parish staff, volunteers, coordinators and youth. Bring doughnuts to the next fundraiser, send notes of thanks, and keep parishioners informed with a "thank you" in the weekly bulletin.

5

## *Prizes*

Solicit donations from local organizations, merchants, etc., to provide rewards to those who meet their goal. Movie tickets and gift certificates are great prizes.

6

## *Fun Goals*

Do a clothing drive in pajamas or have a candlelit dinner at McDonalds. The goofier the better! Fun goals keep the momentum going and energize the weariest of fundraising veterans.

7

## *Bake-Off/Cakewalk*

Use a cakewalk to sell a large portion of your donated sweets. Youth love it and you will get more for the desserts than if you sold them outright. Consider having awards for the various submissions and then auctioning off the best pie, cake, etc.

8

## *Fun Activities*

Low cost, fun events can be great motivators. Include one every few months to keep the enthusiasm going.

9

## *Thank You!*

You cannot say thank you often enough to your supporters and your participants. Show your appreciation with heartfelt words and deeds.

10

## *A "We're Done" Party*

Have one for all volunteers at conclusion. Get together at someone's home or in the parish hall with a potluck meal. It is a nice way to reinforce a sense of community.