

Multiple Inquiries to the AD-STL regarding “iGiveCatholic” – Un-Answered!!



Ken Battis

To: niebruggeb@archstl.org, tiffanycalzone@archstl.org Cc: archbishopsoffice@archstl.org, chrismartin@archstl.org, Ken Battis

Nov 27, 2024 at 11:38 AM

[Details](#)

(2nd) Prayerful inquiry for financial transparency from the Archdiocese of St. Louis

Dear Mr. Niebrugge and/or Tiffany Calzone (& the AD-STL and its leadership):

I am sending this 2nd inquiry, after some additional information and research. Please see the email below for the initial inquiry, which remains, since I have not received any response at all.

In contacts with "iGiveCatholic" and additional research, I am being told that Brian Niebrugge and Tiffany Calzone are the "local" contacts for the Archdiocese of St. Louis, in regard to inquiries about iGiveCatholic. I note that I know this because the folks at iGiveCatholic responded very quickly to various inquiries, including in regard to their overhead or "fees," etc. My understanding from all of this, is that iGiveCatholic has approximately a 7.1% "fee" or "tax" upon the individual donations, before they can be returned to the designated donor destination (ie. to a specific Catholic parish, project, etc.). IF that is incorrect, I would welcome the correction, and the correct amount or percentage.

I note for this record that that figure is roughly 100% (or more) higher than equivalent, aggregating (giving) websites and organizations. For example, "eCatholic" charges roughly between 1 and 3% in fees, etc. to Catholic groups using their resources for fundraising/websites. The overhead/fee structure of any charitable organization or effort is perhaps the most telling statistic, and one that prudent donors ask of any organization to which they are giving. Any organization (like the Archdiocese of St. Louis) that refuses to respond to such inquiries, or be completely transparent in such fees of overhead, raises all sort of alarm bells or red flags. Thus, I welcome your written response to this (now 2nd) inquiry, to clear up any confusion or misperception.

Secondly, we have not been able to get a definitive statement or answer if any other organizations "get a cut" of such donations? For instance, beyond the 7.1% fee going to the iGiveCatholic organization, does a participating Diocese also get a "cut" of the donation, before it is returned to the "pledged" organization (ie. parish, etc.).

In addition, thirdly and lastly, we are being told that "some" Archdiocesan projects and parishes are being "forced" to use iGiveCatholic as their "sole" means for fundraising for those matters, while other parishes/projects are "allowed" to use their own local/parish fundraising. We would greatly appreciate getting a definitive answer in writing, one way or the other, on this critical "disparity of treatment" issue. As Archdiocesan leadership well knows, such "un-explained disparity" between parishes, in matters such as "All Things New" and beyond, is a documented failing in regard to ATN. Those who have nothing to hide, hide nothing (particularly when serving Truth Himself!).

Thank you very much for your consideration of this inquiry, and the favor of a written reply. Regardless of the reply (if any?), we will continue praying for our Archdiocesan and Church leadership, and encouraging all others to do the same. We are incredibly thankful for the good & holy priests serving the faithful flock here in the Rome of the West. Happy Thanksgiving!!

Your true brother in Christ,

Ken R. Battis

President, Save Our St. Louis Parishes

www.sostlp.org

And....

ORIGINAL “iGiveCatholic” inquiry (after inquiries to sostlp.org) (forwarded with 2nd inquiry)

Begin forwarded message:

From: Ken Battis <ken.battis@icloud.com>

Subject: Prayerful inquiry for financial transparency from the Archdiocese of St. Louis

Date: Nov 25, 2024 at 2:42 PM

To: igivecatholic@archstl.org

Cc: "archbishopsoffice@archstl.org" <archbishopsoffice@archstl.org>, "communications@archstl.org" <communications@archstl.org>, "chrismartin@archstl.org" <chrismartin@archstl.org>

Dear Archdiocese of St. Louis / Leaders / iGiveCatholic leadership:

I am writing to the email address which the Archdiocese provides on its website, regarding "iGiveCatholic."

I have scanned both the Archdiocesan website, along with the national "iGiveCatholic" information that I could find, and am unable to find a complete financial breakdown of the spending or distribution from the first two years of the "iGiveCatholic" campaign. If I am mistaken, I would welcome the correction, and the transparency on exactly how much was raised, and exactly how much was distributed (and to whom), in order for donors and potential donors to determine what percentage of their giving actually flows back to the intended charitable project?

I inquire for a number of reasons, perhaps most importantly because of reports within the Archdiocese of St. Louis that certain capital campaigns at individual parishes are being "forced" into the "iGiveCatholic" campaign. We have multiple reports where individual Catholics/donors within the Archdiocese of St. Louis are being told that the "ONLY" way that they can give to a specific capital campaign in their individual parish, is to give directly to "iGiveCatholic," who will in turn "give back" the money to the individual parish.

Understandably, they are concerned about whether 100% of their donations will flow back to their parish and the capital campaign which they would like to give to, or if there will be some "percentage" taken by the Archdiocesan or national/USCCB levels involved in this new and relatively unknown campaign.

IF there is a clear, written and/or "signed" statement which explains the distribution, or clearly states that "100% of the funds donated" will go back to the parish/campaign for which they are being donated, we would welcome being directed to such financial disclosures or clear transparency. Since this is a parish-level inquiry (or problem?), if there is a lack of transparency, I have also copied our Vicar for Parish Mission & Vitality, Fr. Chris Martin.

We do intend to publish information about the "iGiveCatholic" campaign prior to "Giving Tuesday," and would greatly appreciate the favor of a quick, written reply (which should be very easy, unless there is something to hide?) We note that this is all-the-more critical in the Archdiocese of St. Louis, where we are apparently operating without a Chief Financial Officer? We would welcome transparency in that regard also, including how long have we been operating without a CFO, and what are the plans/timelines to correct that?

Thank you in advance for your consideration. Please know that I pray for our Church leaders daily in our Rosary, and encourage all others Catholics to do the same.

Your true brother in Christ,

Ken R. Battis
President, Save Our St. Louis Parishes
www.sostlp.org