



# *Our Lady of Mount Carmel* Is pleased to announce our new: **Vision 23 – Automated Giving Program**

## Frequently Asked Questions

### What is Automated Giving?

Automated Giving is an electronic funds transfer program that allows you to make contributions to OLMC without writing checks. It is a paperless, electronic transaction that goes through your banks Automated Clearing House (ACH) and transfers money from one bank to another.

### Why consider Automated Giving?

One of the principles of good financial stewardship involves planning the gifts that are to be shared with others. Most people use a budget to manage their households, and in the same way, by using Automated Giving - parishioners are able to enact their financial stewardship plan on a consistent basis throughout the year.

### Who is an Automated Giver?

A parishioner, who through prayer and reflection, chooses an automated way to exercise good financial stewardship by having his/her regular weekly or monthly offering electronically delivered to the parish.

### What are the advantages of Automated Giving?

1) Not everyone attends Mass here each week (for a variety of reasons), so Automated Giving ensures that the parish regularly receives the intended gift as planned by the parishioner. 2) Automated Giving will allow you to prioritize your giving within your budget. 3) You no longer need to search for your envelopes or your checkbook, or worry because you forgot them. 4) OLMC is able to better stabilize its budget and save time and mailing costs.

### Will I still receive my collection/sacrificial giving envelopes?

You will no longer receive the weekly collection envelopes. However, you will still receive the envelopes for Second Collection and special charitable campaigns.

### How is my Automated Giving deducted from my account?

Once you authorize the transfer, your specified contribution is electronically transferred directly from your checking or savings account to the Parish's account. Your participation will continue on as long as you like. You can always make changes if your situation changes or an emergency arises. Simply contact us.

### When will my contribution be deducted from my account?

On the date you select (semi-monthly on the first and the fifteenth; or monthly on the first or the fifteenth). You never have to worry about forgetting to bring your envelope to Mass.

**If I do not write checks, how do I keep my checkbook balance straight?**

Since your contribution is made at a pre-established time, you simply record it in your check register on the appropriate date.

**Without a canceled check, how can I prove I made my contribution?**

OLMC will include your automated gifts on your annual contribution statement and your bank statement will also give you an itemized list of electronic transfers.

**Is Automated (electronic) Giving risky?**

Electronic giving is less risky than check contribution. It cannot be lost, stolen, or destroyed. It has an extremely high rate of accuracy. It is also more secure than a cash gift.

**What if I change bank accounts?**

Notify us at the Rectory (440) 585-0700 and we will give you a new "Change of Automated Withdrawal Authorization" form to complete.

**How much does Automated Giving cost?**

It cost you nothing and it saves you time.

**What if I try Automated Giving and don't like it?**

At all times you have the ability to choose to participate or stop using the program. You can easily cancel your authorization by notifying us at any time using a "Cancellation of Automated Withdrawal Authorization" form.

**Can I change the amount or frequency of my Automated Giving?**

Yes, you can change the amount of your gift or the frequency of your gift at any time by filling out a "Change of Automated Withdrawal Authorization" form and updating the necessary information. This form usually takes about one week to process.

**How do I sign up for Automated Giving?**

Simply complete and sign the Authorization form and return it to the Rectory along with a voided check or savings account number and bank routing number. The form can be mailed or brought to the Rectory or dropped into the offertory basket.

I thank you for considering this Program. While possibly not for everyone, many parishioners have indicated an interest, and expressed the desire to have this option available. If you have any questions please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely Yours in Christ,

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