

**BEFORE YOU PLEDGE ANYTHING TO THE  
2006 CATHOLIC MINISTRIES APPEAL  
PLEASE READ THIS**

We believe the Diocese of Rockville Centre should form a Representative Diocesan Finance Council comprised of individuals *elected by and from the faith community*. The purpose of the council is to work along side the existing appointed council to make sure that Diocesan spending priorities reflect the values and priorities of the community of faith.

Once again the Diocese of Rockville Centre is asking us to give more money to the Catholic Ministries Appeal.

Every Long Island Catholic should follow his or her informed conscience on this request. The key is to gather the facts, evaluate them and form an opinion within the constraints of good conscience.

You hear one side of the story from the pulpit and via direct mail solicitations.

**HERE IS THE REST OF THE STORY**

**Diocesan excess reserves increased again last year and now total:  
\$186,600,000**

These reserves grow at an annual rate of \$10 to \$20 Million. We are asking the Diocese to use such amount to strengthen and support its programs on Long Island. We are not asking the Diocese to deplete its reserves.

If you knew that another charity had all this money in reserve, would you respond to an appeal from that charity for more money? So when you respond to this year's appeal, we suggest you return the card with a note saying, "*We would be happy to participate in the Annual Ministries Appeal when the Diocese establishes an elected representative Diocesan Finance Council.*"

A contribution to the Appeal serves to increase these unconscionable reserves.

There are many worthwhile alternatives for Catholic financial stewardship through which your money would actually be used to help the needy of Long Island.

**Give intelligently.**

Go to our website ([votf-li.org](http://votf-li.org)) and look under Accountability for Dick Grafer's Full Report on Diocesan Finances.

**LONG ISLAND VOICE OF THE FAITHFUL  
PO BOX 1007  
NESCONSET, NY 11767**

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