

# United Thank Offering Report

October 6, 2020

The UTO In-Gathering Offering for 2020 to date has received a total of \$ 290.30 from 2 of the 48 churches in the Diocese of Louisiana since the Covid shutdown. The attached listing shows the individual offering received from the participating church during the year 2019. The UTO grants have been cancelled for 2020 because of Covid-19. They will be making a new theme based on the needs from Covid-19.

The Fall UTO In-Gathering is usually before Thanksgiving. Please choose whatever date is convenient for you to have an In-Gathering.

The United Thank Offering began in 1889 by the newly established Women's Auxiliary. They wanted to demonstrate the connection between giving thanks and giving money, united praying and sharing. Prayer and offering are our response to God's love as experienced in our lives. It is a personal and family devotional program of the Episcopal Church. It is the sum of our daily thanks for the blessing in our everyday lives. Grateful hearts are the reason that UTO is able to continue to award grants which are the gifts of love, and which change lives. The UTO is a vital mission arm of the Episcopal Church. UTO is not a fund drive, but is a discipline in our daily life in Christ. We can offer prayers of thanksgiving for our countless blessings and this makes giving a joyful experience.

I invite you all to pick up a Blue Box and join the United Thank Offering. Take a moment each day to say thank you to God and put a coin in that box. We can be thankful for joys, blessings and challenges. UTO's mission is to expand the circle of thankful people through daily prayers and offerings for the abundance of God's blessings. All UTO offerings are granted. Our mission is to expand the church, and our ministry is to meet compelling needs.

Here in the Diocese of Louisiana, we are all mindful of these values and goals of UTO. We have been certainly blessed with many joys and challenges. We have also realized that UTO grants awarded to us are definitely being used to expand the church and to meet the compelling needs of our Diocese.

Keep the UTO In-Gathering in your thoughts and prayers, as we ask the Lord to teach us to share His gifts and blessings with others. We can continue to be United in Offering our Thanks to the Lord for His many blessings and opportunities to demonstrate our faithfulness, and always remembering "With God, all things are possible."

May God bless us all, and the Church,  
Laurel McCartney