

Whenever I find change on the ground, I always drop it into the collection basket. I just always liked the idea that no gift is too small, and all can help in the mission of Christ. I mentioned this once in a homily I gave, and my family just happened to be in town for the weekend. As I got home after the last Sunday morning Mass, I was greeted by the smell of the breakfast my parents were cooking. But I also noticed that there was change all over the floor. Apparently my nieces and nephews thought that I shouldn't be storing up my spare change in a bowl – but giving it to the Church and putting it to use. I was finding nickels and dimes for months.

While it is true that no gift is too small, it takes more than spare change to continue the work of Jesus Christ. That is true in our parishes, and that is true of the regional ministries beyond any individual parish, which are funded by the Annual Catholic Appeal. The work of forming our seminarians, our future priests, is the work of us all. Six years of graduate studies, including tuition, room and board, books, medical insurance, and a small stipend for day to day needs or to travel home for breaks, doesn't just happen on its own. Forming the formation of our future permanent deacons, including one from MQP, is the work of us all. Seed money to the WWU and UW Newman Centers which serve our Catholic college students and share the gift of faith, is the work of us all. And these are just some of the ministries funded by Annual Catholic Appeal. The question is, what are they worth to you? The \$11 million campaign requires a lot more than just spare change.

I once had a school staff member stop by the parish office. Her grandma taught her that if you find money it belongs to God, she said, and so we were chatting about my own similar practice. And then she handed over a \$100 bill. Not your average find on the pavement! And admittedly, I'd have to think a little harder about that one myself. Truth be told, though, everything we have is from the Lord Jesus – not just that which we happen upon. And so the perennial question is how is Jesus calling me to use, and what portion am I called to give back to him to continue his work? Thank you to those who have already made your pledge to the ACA. If you haven't yet, please do so at www.archseattle.org/aca. Jesus needs your offering to continue his work in the local Church.