



October 5, 2023

Greetings from United Thank Offering!

The changing leaves tell me that Fall has arrived despite the Summer like temperatures we've been experiencing this week. Fall is a busy time of year for UTO; with Fall Ingatherings, The Great EpisGOPal Race, November Gratitude opportunities, and getting grant applications together.

I really want to encourage all of you to learn more about UTO and what UTO has to offer by visiting [unitedthankoffering.org](https://unitedthankoffering.org). There are so many things available for everyone to use here. There are downloadable and printable resources for your Ingatherings, for children, for liturgies, access to webinars, and all the information you will need if you want to apply for a grant through UTO.

Speaking of Fall Ingathering. I recently attended a training day for UTO coordinators, and one takeaway was that Ingatherings have traditionally been in the Spring and in the Fall. UTO realizes that this doesn't work for everyone, so we encourage you to host your Ingathering when it works best for your parish. Whenever you host an Ingathering, I want to remind you that the money collected should get turned in to the diocesan office at:

Diocese of Fond du Lac

1051 N. Lynndale Dr. #1B

Appleton, WI 54914

Make sure you have your money in by December 1, so the office has time to get it to the national UTO office by mid-December. All money collected this year goes towards grants awarded in April 2024.

I will be sending information on the 2024 grants soon. If you think you have a plan, and want some financial help from UTO, read the focus and criteria carefully. There is also a lot of very helpful information on the granting process on the UTO website. There are many opportunities to get help from the national UTO office with your grant applications, so I encourage you to take advantage of this. Applications are due at the national office by January 19, 2024. (Watch for an announcement on when the diocese wants your applications in. We need to review them and choose one from the diocese to send on.) This is earlier than usual due to the General Convention taking place in June.

During our Diocesan Convention we will be showing the trailer for “Gratitude Revealed” a movie by Louie Schwartzberg. We screened this at our UTO Coordinators webinar. The movie is available for churches to screen. Information on the movie and how to host a screening, along with helpful materials can be found at [gratituderevealed.com](http://gratituderevealed.com). I recommend hosting a screening!

I will be at the Diocesan Convention, but due to space constraints I will not have a table. I would be happy to talk to any of you about UTO, perhaps to set up a visit, or just provide information. I will also have some UTO supplies along with me that I can send home with you if you’re interested. I will be wearing UTO blue so hopefully I will be easy to find!

In closing I want to remind you that studies have shown that living a life in gratitude is good for your emotional AND physical well-being. There is always something to be grateful for!

With blessings,

Cheryl Dobrzynski, UTO Coordinator – Diocese of Fond du Lac

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