



**July 22, 2002 -Statement of Donna M. Morrissey, Spokeswoman, Archdiocese of Boston on Voice of the Faithful Collections**

As has been communicated in the media, Voice of the Faithful has announced an initiative whereby it will collect, and find the ways to distribute, funds from persons who choose at this time not to contribute to the Cardinal's Appeal. The Cardinal's Appeal is collected annually and helps maintain a variety of charitable works in the Archdiocese of Boston. It is to the Archdiocese what the Sunday collection is to the parish.

The Archdiocese cannot accept this initiative of Voice of the Faithful, or the monies collected in this manner, because it undercuts that customary means of financial support to the mission of the Church in this Archdiocese, which is the Cardinal's Appeal. This approach of donating money to the mission of the Church which has been proposed by the Voice of the Faithful does not recognize the role of the Archbishop and his responsibility in providing for the various programs and activities of the Church.

While the Archdiocese and any of its entities are ready to receive contributions from individuals designated for any of the works of the Church, it feels obliged to take the position stated above as sign of a sincere effort to maintain the proper relationship between a bishop and the faithful entrusted to his pastoral care in addressing the necessary works of the Church.

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