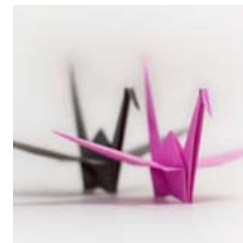


FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES & FUNDRAISING SUGGESTIONS

Northampton Youth Ministry Office



Here are some suggestions:

Ask the parish!

Many parishes will be only too pleased and proud if one or more of “their” young people are going to ‘lumos’, and may well be willing to sponsor them, or contribute something towards the cost.

If it can’t come directly from parish funds, your priest may be willing to run a one-off Second Collection, which can often yield enough to meet the whole cost for one person at least or can be split among a group. You may need to speak from the pulpit, and perhaps create a display for the notice boards. We can help you with some graphics and information, just drop Neil a line on neil@nymo.org or give him a call on 01844 273337.

It helps if you promise to make a presentation or report back to the parish when you return. Parish groups such as the Knights of St Columba or SVP will sometimes make donations if they know about the trip.

Find a sponsor

There may be an individual in your parish - perhaps an elderly person with some spare money and a real desire to help young people in the Church - who would be willing to sponsor your trip. Sometimes they wish to do this anonymously. Again, the promise of some feedback from you can be well worthwhile - and even if you don’t know who your sponsor is, you should be prepared to write them a letter of thanks afterwards with an account of your trip, and some photos. Do not approach people yourself. Ask your priest or youth leader to make an approach on your behalf, or to put in a newsletter announcement appealing for individual sponsors.

If these easy ways don’t work, there’s no alternative to doing some work. It’s really helpful if you can get other people to help with this stuff - the youth group, your mates, your family, maybe the parish SVP or Knights would be willing to adopt this as a project and give their time. Here’s a list of ideas:

Youth canteen

Young people take over, as often as allowed, the post-Mass tea & coffee, adding cakes, biscuits, and bacon butties if you can. Get approval for a price list. Make it clear what they’re giving to. (Will take a long time to make any serious money!)

Rent-Some-Time

Advertise in your parish newsletter for parishioners to contact you and a friend to rent for projects (raking leaves, babysitting, Pop Idol-O-grams etc.). A similar idea is the Auction of Promises. The youth group make a number of pledges (two hours babysitting, gardening, football coaching, computer tuition etc) and these are auctioned off at a social.

Sponsored Walks

Plan a reasonable distance you plan to walk. Get friends/family/parishioners to sponsor you. Do the walk (encourage others to join you) and collect from your sponsors.

Sponsored Anything!

People will sponsor anything that has a measurable quantity attached to it - lengths swum, height abseiled/climbed, hours fasted or kept-silent, points gained on PlayStation game, kilos of litter collected, etc. Use your ingenuity and think of something quirky, fun, visually spectacular, newsworthy or even useful.

Car Washes

After (or even during) parish Masses, be prepared with buckets, sponges etc and clean cars for a donation. If electricity and hoovers are available, you can offer interior clean-ups too, if they will trust you with their keys. (May need adult supervision). If washing cars during Mass, make sure you attend another Mass.

Parish social

Lay on a teen-provided social event and invite people to the parish hall or somewhere, making a cover charge. Provide entertainment (karaoke, theatre, sports, trivial pursuit, scrabble etc) and supper.

Games Competition

Find the biggest TV screen you can borrow, or see if someone can set up a video projector to run from a PC, with a really big OHP screen, and stage an afternoon of computer/console games for the younger teens. Run a competition or league if you like. Charge modest admission and sell coke and snacks at a modest profit (with healthy options of course!) The idea is to take advantage of other people's best kit and tempt gamers to spend money...

Youth Bazaar

Borrow the church hall (or somewhere else) and have a set of sales-and-entertainment stalls staffed entirely by the youth group. The novelty will draw lots of parishioners in, but it's still best to run it, if you can, after a Mass when lots of them will be around. Offer tea, coffee, soft drinks and cakes/lunches, sell CDs and computer-games, toys you and your siblings have outgrown, sell instant photos via a digital camera, PC and printer, sell personalized postcards/bookmarks/prayer cards produced off someone's PC, sell anything that your peers can make, bake or assemble, raffle a couple of major prizes, run all kinds of silly games, guess-the-baby-photo etc. Teach mums how to text. Make full use of your hi-tech skills and equipment. It's what will make such an event unique.

The Gig

If you are in a band, or have friends who are, you could stage a gig and sell tickets. This really will need close work with the priest and adults in the parish or school, as there are all sorts of issues around noise, security and health-and-safety, especially if it goes open to the public. And it will take a lot of marketing and selling. But such things can make a lot of money quickly, especially if you can get the band for free, and the refreshments donated or home-made.

Lumos 100 Club

If your parish isn't already running a 100-club or similar, see if Father will let you run one for three months. The basic concept is that you recruit 100 (or 50, or 200) members who pay in £1 (or 50p or whatever) per month, and each month there is a draw whereby one member wins a cash prize, which you set at a level big enough to be enticing but small enough to leave you some profit—e.g. £50 if you are getting-in £100 a month. You can add a set of smaller 2nd prizes to make it more interesting. The difficulty is in collecting the money. It's best to invite people to pay up all it once. Takes a bit of paperwork and promotion, but once it's set up it just runs and generates your profit.

Gift Aid

Parents and adult helpers please note... Gift Aid only enables tax to be reclaimed on donations to charities, NOT to individuals. Donations to the parish to enable it to help a young person go to Lumos are valid for Gift Aid. Donations direct to the young person are not. If you wish to reap the benefit of this potential 28% uplift in the value of donations, make sure the fundraising events are run "by the parish" and then any donations by existing Gift Aid declarants will be covered. Note also that you can take Gift Aid declarations to cover sponsored walks or events so long as they are stated to be raising money for the parish. See address below for advice or forms.

Other Legalities

If tempted by the 100-Club idea above, please be aware that they are classified as Lotteries and therefore NO tickets may be sold to anyone under 16. There is no clear ruling, even from the Gaming Board, on whether they can be run as "private lotteries" not needing registration with the local authority – but if they can, you must certainly not sell any tickets to people outside your congregation. The safest course is to treat them as "Society lotteries" and go through the process of registration with the local authority, which most parishes will be used to in connection with other raffles and lotteries.

If you are running any events for fund-raising, please be sure you are familiar with all the health-and-safety points for such events, and other legal and official requirements—especially if your event or project involves any of the following:-

Selling or supplying food or drink—especially alcohol
Public performance of music, singing or dancing
Street or door-to-door collections
Raffles, prize draws or any form of lottery
Publishing photographs of anyone under 16
Any events for children, risky equipment like bouncy castles etc.
Anything where you are using electricity outdoors, or in an unusual way

Ask the NYMO office (see below) for advice on any of this.

Good luck and God bless you!

You and your friends may be able to think of lots of other ideas. Tell us what works!

For all fundraising enquiries contact:

Brin Dunsire
NYMO, Ker Anna Centre
Aylesbury Road
Princes Risborough
HP27 0JN
tel: 01844 273337
email: brin@nymo.org
website: www.nymo.org