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### **“Electronic Deposits” Help Parishes Increase Revenue**

There are a growing number of churches that have instituted electronic payment systems (EPS) to boost parish revenues.

With EPS, parishioners can sign up for automatic withdrawal of their Sunday donations. We have heard of instances in some parishes in which EPS resulted in historic givers increasing their annual donations by as much as 30 percent.

Why the increase? Administrators say it is primarily due to the fact that the pledge comes in regularly without fail, whether or not the parishioner has attended church each week. Not only does pledge income increase, but parish revenue streams are more stable and predictable. EPS can go a long way toward solving the summer drought in collections, or the winter drought if your parish has many snowbirds who have gone South between Christmas and Easter.

In addition, the under-thirty-years-of-age crowd is far more accustomed and far more likely to transact their donations this way than to place checks in the collection basket.

Of important note when making this transition: Be sure to provide a means for parishioners using EPS to still give witness that they are financial supporters of their parish community. For example, you can encourage parishioners who use EPS to continue to put an envelope in the collection plate (empty), but mark it with the letters “EPS.” Or consider giving stickers for people to wear if they contribute electronically. In this way, these parishioners continue to feel like active participants and their own children, as well as others in the congregation, can witness their giving.

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