



NORTH ✚ AMERICA

# CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE

## WHAT IS IT?

In a "Giving Tree" fashion, parishes can choose from two different kinds of ornaments. One type lists items for a local organization of their much needed list of goods. The other type is for those who simply wish to give a monetary donation, they can pick a FOCUS program to support.

## HOW TO DO IT:

### Project Key Steps:

- › Meet or speak with priest about the project.
- › Discuss with FOCUS staff number of ornaments your parish would like to receive and coordinate with local organization contact best date, time, and location for item drop off or pick up
- › Put announcements in parish bulletin and newsletters and put up posters/art to advertise project
- › FOCUS will send you customized ornaments for needed items at a local organization near you.
- › Once ornaments have arrived, let individuals and families take an ornament and return the items by specified date or mail the donation to the FOCUS program.
  - › Reminders to make checks payable to FOCUS North America, P.O. Box 645039, Pittsburgh, PA 15264-5039 (Preaddressed envelopes will be sent to parish with ornaments)
- › Collect gifts on Sunday and then complete drop off of items so the local organization provided by FOCUS.
- › FOCUS will send acknowledgments to anyone who sent in a check to support a program.

### Project Duration:

Flexible, can be 1-3 months in total for project with 2 weeks advertising in advance, 3 weeks of parishioners with ornaments to buy the items and return them to the church/mailing in checks, and 1 week of reporting success of program/thanking parish

### **Sample Parish Bulletin Announcement:**

Our parish have a Giving Christmas Tree Program with FOCUS North America, to support local families and children this Christmas. Please take an ornament from the tree at coffee hour.

There ornaments for those who wish to donate items for for local families throu the <NAME OF ORGANIZATION> in <AREA> Please bring the items listed on the ornament to the parish hall in the designated spot by <DATE>. There are also ornaments want to send in a donation to support one of the incredible FOCUS programs. Grag one of the pre-addressed envelopes by the tree and checks payable to FOCUS North America.

### **About FOCUS**

FOCUS North America, the Fellowship of Orthodox Christians United to Serve, helps the poor and suffering in North America. One of the major National Programs of FOCUS is the Christmas Program, which provides for those in need in your local community and across the country. For more information please visit [www.focus-northamerica.org](http://www.focus-northamerica.org).

Contact FOCUS at:

**[www.focusnorthamerica.org](http://www.focusnorthamerica.org)**

**1-866-267-3083**

**[info@focusna.org](mailto:info@focusna.org)**