

# Grain as good as cash when gifting to “Christ Our Life” Capital Campaign



by Wayne Pelzel, director  
Office of Development

The “Christ Our Life” Capital Campaign is recognizing significant benefits from gifts of grain. Active farmers are encouraged to consider this method of gifting to the campaign and to their parish as it may provide substantial tax benefits.

Three important criteria to keep in mind that make this practice work are:

- You must be a cash-basis taxpayer. If you use the accrual method of accounting to figure your taxes, much of your advantage is negated.
- You must be an active farm producer.
- The charity you contribute to must sell the grain.

## *Campaign starts payouts to parishes*

Tom Holzer, diocesan Director of Finance, presented the first payments from the “Christ Our Life” Capital Campaign to Msgr. John Richter and Fr. Samuel Perez who were representing their parishes, Cathedral of the Holy



Trinity in New Ulm and the Church of the Sacred Heart in Murdock, respectively. The parishes are among the 17 parishes participating in the pilot wave of the campaign. Parishes and the diocese share the receipts of the campaign from the first dollar donated. At the time of this picture, that amounted to a check of \$70,773.58 for Murdock and \$121,922.08 for Cathedral.

*(photo by Dan Rossini)*

When delivering your contribution to the elevator, ask that the storage receipt be made out in the name of the charity. Then give the charity the receipt with a letter saying the commodity is theirs to handle as they see fit. The charity will then contact the elevator and instruct them to sell the grain.

Make sure to contact your tax accountant if you have specific questions about how commodity giving will affect your tax liability.

*Editors note: Substantial portions of this article were taken from a publication prepared by the accounting firm Larson Allen.*