Dear Clergy and Staff,

We are St. Mary Recycle Mission Group and we have been working with Episcopal churches, Catholic churches, Convents, Schools, The Knights of Columbus, and other organizations, as well as with Parishioners who have things at home in helping rescue and recycle used Religious items that are no longer needed.

For over 30 years, we have helped recycle items from Churches that have items from former Clergy that are no longer being used, or from Churches that unfortunately closed, as well as from Parishioners who need to place their personal religious items from home that they don't know what to do with. Over the years, we have found many of these items in the trash so we came up with a recycling program. We offer a monetary donation to you for your recycle efforts if you wish to put towards your needs, just let us know when contacting us. Our recycling program was developed to help parishes both in need of items that they cannot afford, as well as with their financial needs, and also to help the community.

We originally got started after finding several items cleared out from a church basement in the dumpster of a local church all in perfectly usable condition. We later found that there is a need for these unwanted items. Our first large effort was following Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans as we sent hundreds of recycled items to a parish there that was more than happy to accept items for both the parish and parishioners that we had gathered.

We can take in or give just about anything of Religious nature that can be used by other churches, convents or religious organizations such as:

- Vestments including Chasubles, Stoles, Albs, etc. (even if they are soiled or tattered, as we have them professionally cleaned and/or restored if possible so they can be worn, we can also use them to make new vestments, rosary cases or missal covers, we accept any style, color, vintage)
- Crucifixes
- Statues (any size, no outdoor concrete statues)
- Rosaries (damaged ok)
- Chalices (Pottery ok but please not by mail)
- Altar Ware
- Candle Sticks
- Tabernacles
- Relics
- Monstrances
- Altar Stones
- Altar Books/Missals/Lectionaries
- Holy Medals
- Holy Cards
- Linens
- Paraments
- Framed Religious Pictures
- Used Musical Instruments (No Pianos or Organs)
- Prayer books//Breviaries/Catholic Encyclopedias

(**Please No <u>Religious Books/Reading Books/Story Books, Hymnals, Pamphlets/Magazines/DVD's, VHS Tapes, Greeting Cards, Christmas items or Wax Candles</u>**)

Please do not throw anything out that may be questionable. No reading Books or large furniture type items at this time, if in question, please contact us. If you have larger furniture items that we cannot personally pick up, we will take measures to help place them for you. We do have people on our

waiting list waiting for items that we cannot personally take. Whatever your situation may be, we are here to help.

In many cases, we are able to travel to your location to pick up larger accumulations or any amount with no minimum if we are in your area. If you have any items that can be mailed and are out of our reach, we are accepting items via mail and will be more than happy to return the postage, and also send a donation in return if requested as mentioned above. We ask that you please be sure place a note inside of the shipment stating that you would like postage and/or a donation, with your return address, all payments are sent back as soon as the shipment arrives so there is no waiting period. We can use anything that you may not need or have no use for. Please see address below for shipments.

*** Please remember, this is a recycle program that works both ways, if you are in need of items that you cannot financially afford, please email us your needs, and we will help you. Items we supply you are of no cost to you and we also cover shipping costs or will personally drop off items to you when we are in your area. ***

We will be in your area for pick ups sometime between October 5th and October 16th. Please consider cleaning out the closet and placing us in your bulletin for parishioners to bring in religious items from their home to recycle. Please call or reply by email no later than Friday September 25th to be added to our pick up list. Secretaries, if you would like to add us to your bulletin for your parishioners to bring in items and would like an example for the bulletin, please let me know.

If you don't presently have anything to recycle or need items at this time, please keep our information on file, as we are always collecting and giving items if you need them in the future!

References available upon request.

May God Bless!

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(Not part of St. Mary's Church or the Harrisburg Diocese)