



## Gratitude in Difficult Times

by the Rev. Canon Heather L. Melton, Staff Officer for the United Thank Offering

First off, my apologies: your e-news is coming out a little late this month because I was waiting for the Ingathering totals for September so we could announce all of the contest winners at once. Thank you to all of you who have called or emailed asking where your e-news was! It's great to know that you look forward to it and that it's useful to you. I promise, I won't forget to send one. To be honest, it's also a little late because I've been struggling a bit to write a reflection. Each time I've sat down to write, I've found my mind drifting to the things I'm worried about – the recovery in Puerto Rico, the fires in California, the shooting in Las Vegas, refugee resettlement issues, DACA, and sometimes the simple things I'm just trying to get done around my house (which seem really petty in this list, but it's true). So, I kept thinking, what can I say about gratitude that wouldn't sound hollow in the midst of all of this?

[Read more >>](#)



## Update from the UTO Coordinator in Puerto Rico

by Lorraine Candelario, UTO Coordinator, Diocese of Puerto Rico

Here in Puerto Rico, we are all trying to help one another. Puerto Rico is devastated but slowly picking itself up, thanks first to the Lord and to all those who have arrived to keep order and all the humanitarians who are helping. Electrical posts and cables are being restored, and the armed forces are directing traffic and trying to keep order along with our police. We still need prayers, especially to maintain patience and peace. Water is hard to come by, food as well. My experience is that it's hard to just go to the supermarket. Lines are horrendous to purchase anything. I believe there's electricity on about 12% of the island. What worries me most are the people who live so high up in the mountains. It is difficult for them to get around, their food supply is minimal, and their houses have been destroyed. Bishop Rafael Morales is working so hard and ensuring that all the communities have some help. He's nonstop. My deepest thank you for your and everyone's concerns and prayers.

For more information on the Diocese of Puerto Rico, please visit <http://episcopalpr.org>.

To donate to the Diocese of Puerto Rico Hurricane Relief, please visit <http://www.gemn.org/donate-to-diocese-of-puerto-rico-hurricane-fund/>.



## Congratulations to Our Julia Chester Emery Contest Winners!

First off, a BIG thank you to everyone who participated in our special Julia Chester Emery birthday celebration! It was really hard to choose a winner for the photo contest, so rest assured, we'll do it again.

[Click here to see the photo contest and Ingathering winners >>](#)

## New UTO Materials Available!

Over the past few weeks, a lot of new materials have become available on our website and in the distribution center. We wanted to make you aware of a few of them.

[Click here to see the new brochures, prayers, and boxes >>](#)

## UTO Reads!

by the Rev. Canon Heather L. Melton, Staff Officer for the United Thank Offering

One of the things we get asked about most are resources for teaching gratitude to toddlers, children, and youth. At the last UTO Board meeting, we agreed to start a new segment of the e-newsletter featuring a review of a book that teaches about gratitude. Each month, we'll have a review of a new book that we think does a great job of teaching gratitude, generosity, or kindness. We're by no means the experts on this, so we hope you'll submit your own book reviews! Just [send me](#) a photo (of you or the book) and a short description of the book, stating who you think will enjoy it and what you liked best about it. We'll run a new book review each month, so let us know what you're reading to help you live a more grateful life!

To kick off our new series, *UTO Reads!*, I thought I'd start with two books for little people, getting help from my twin 3-year-olds who love books and have very strong opinions on them.

[Find out what books the twins recommend >>](#)

## Grant Site Update: Sewage Ditch and Sewage Disposal Tank Construction Work in Sandu Shui Ethnic Autonomous County, Guizhou Province, China

by the China Christian Council

In Sandu Shui Ethnic Autonomous County in Guizhou Province, the local conditions are too poor to support steady development of the economy. As a consequence, the idea of environmental protection and sustainable development can't be supported. This project is in the Banyin Village, where the local town government is located. The population density is comparatively high and both of the agriculture and business converge there. In order to make the local infrastructure supportive to implementing the sustainable development idea, China Christian Council (CCC) applied the funds from the "United Thank Offering" Grant of the Episcopal Church to help the village build the sewage ditch and the disposal tanks to properly handle the discharge and treatment of their domestic and production water.

[Read more >>](#)



## Ingathering Ideas for November

Many congregations and dioceses hold their UTO Ingathering in November (historically the Ingatherings were scheduled for a Sunday on or near All Saints Day and Ascension Day), which makes a great deal of sense with Thanksgiving at the end of the month. Last year, we debuted the UTO Turkey Box right before Thanksgiving, and since we didn't give you much notice, many of you didn't get a chance to use them. So we want to draw your attention to them now so you can distribute them to your faith formation/Sunday School groups. The UTO Turkey Box helps children (and adults) reflect on gratitude and grace. The lesson plan that goes with the turkey asks children how they respond to kindness and how they could help others. If you don't want to use the lesson plan, you can still print out the turkey and ask folks to write on the feathers what they are most thankful for, and they can have it available at their Thanksgiving celebration. It's a great way to deepen or introduce others to the spiritual discipline of gratitude.

All of the materials to create a UTO Turkey Box can be found [here](#).



## Deadline Approaching for Young Adult and Seminarian Applications!

by Kayla Massey, Associate Staff Officer

The deadline is fast approaching for the UTO Young Adult and Seminarian Grants. That means many of you are preparing your applications to send off to your dioceses or seminarian deans as you read this. I wanted to take this opportunity to let you know that beginning this year, I'm the staff contact for the Young Adult and Seminarian Grants and am here to help. Please [email me](#) or call me (212-716-6022) with any questions or concerns. I am happy to speak with applicants or look over applications up to a week before the due date to give pointers and feedback. Final applications are due Friday, November 3, by 5 PM Eastern Time. This year's grants will be award up to \$2,500 for new and innovative ministries that focus on the Jesus Movement: Evangelism, Reconciliation, and Creation Care. All the application materials can be submitted [here](#) (by the diocese or the seminary). All the materials can be found [here](#).

We look forward to reading about your exciting new ministries!

## Save the Date!

**UTO Annual Grant Materials** will be released on the first Friday of December! Be sure to check our webpage, Facebook, and other social media platforms for all of the information.

**Ingathering Update:** Ingathering checks should be sent as soon as possible throughout the year to help increase the interest that we earn on the Ingathering account. With that said, all Ingathering checks should be placed in the mail **no later than December 10** in order to be counted in the 2017 Ingathering. This is the last chance to contribute to the Triennial Ingathering, so please help us as we work toward raising the Ingathering over the past three years. If you would like to check on your Ingathering amount so far this year for your diocese, please [contact Kayla](#).

## Follow UTO on Social Media!



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