



Old Catholic Churches International

July 28, 2025

Monday of the Seventeenth Week in Ordinary Time

Important Warning: Scam Alerts Involving IRS, HHS, and Churches

Be Alert: Scammers Target Churches and Community Members

Recently, there's been an increase in scams falsely claiming that government agencies—such as the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) and the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)—are offering grants to churches or that churches can distribute government grants to individuals. These schemes are designed to manipulate trust and may result in significant financial loss or the theft of personal information.

Essential Facts to Remember

- **No IRS or HHS Grants Through Churches:** Neither the IRS nor the Department of Health and Human Services provides grants to churches for redistribution to individuals. Any message, email, phone call, or letter saying otherwise is a scam.
- **Churches Do Not Distribute Federal Grants:** Churches do not receive special federal grant funds from the IRS, HHS, or any other agency to give to individuals or families. Government grants are never distributed to the public through churches.

Scammers' Common Tactics

- Unsolicited communications (emails, phone calls, or letters) that appear official
- Requests for your personal or financial details to “process” a grant
- Promises of easy government money in exchange for a fee or sensitive information
- Use of official-sounding language or documents that are forged

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Protecting Yourself and Others

- **Verify the Source:** If you receive information about IRS, HHS, or any government grant—especially those involving churches—check its authenticity through the official government website or hotlines before acting.
- **Safeguard Your Information:** Never share your Social Security number, bank account, or other personal details in response to unsolicited offers or requests.
- **Report Suspicious Activity:** If you suspect a scam, promptly report it to the appropriate government agency and your local authorities. Government agencies have dedicated resources to address fraudulent activity and can advise you on next steps.
- **Create a plan:** Discuss with church members, family, and friends a passcode that can be used to verify that they are actually talking to you or someone authorized to speak for you or your church.

Official Guidance from the IRS and HHS

The IRS is responsible for tax collection and enforcing tax laws, while the Department of Health and Human Services administers programs related to health and social services. Neither agency acts as a grant distributor to individuals through churches or religious organizations. For reliable guidance, always consult the official IRS or HHS website, or contact their offices directly.

Share This Message

Please inform your friends, family, and congregation to help prevent others from falling for these scams. Staying alert and spreading awareness is the key to keeping our communities safe from fraud.

Remember: If an offer sounds too good to be true, it almost certainly is.