

Archdiocesan Leaders Day

*Building the Church of Jesus Christ*

Saturday, Sept. 21<sup>st</sup>, 2013

**Building Parishes of Generous People**

*Strengthening Parish Stewardship*

*Joseph Kormos, Parish Development Ministry Leader*

# Why This Topic?

- ▶ Commonly requested
  - Parishes need money
  - Stewardship teaching in past has been limited
  - Additional \$ can help strengthen/prolong parishes

*But there is more....*

Effective stewardship efforts help parishioners to increase the level of meaning that the Church (Christ) has to them and their lives and to foster positive attitudes toward generosity.

## **Building High Standards**

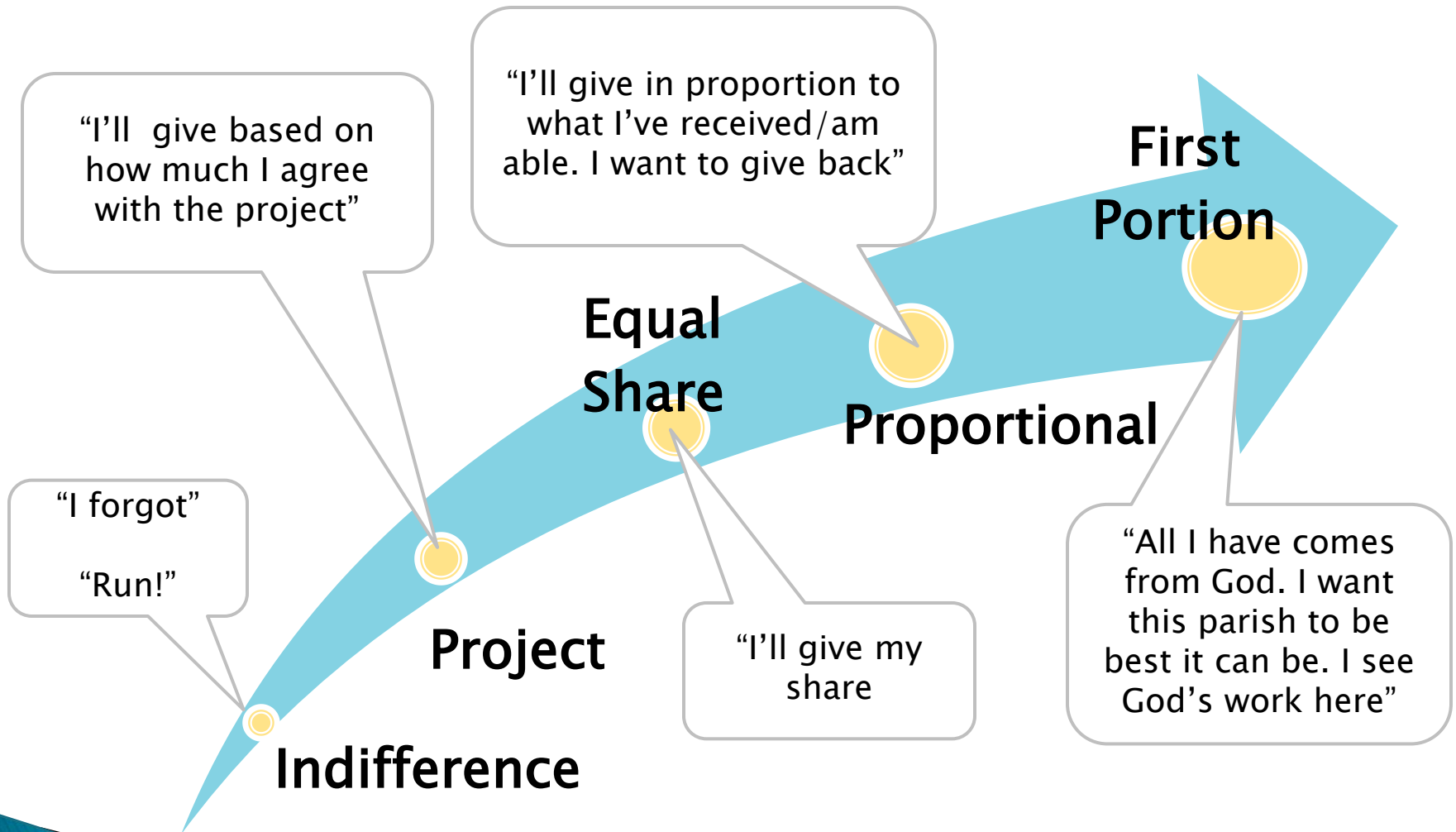
A good stewardship effort helps define what the church stands for and to what it is committed.

**Stewardship = Excellent lay ministry**

# Sources

- ▶ Orthodox Church in America
  - Stewardship Handbook
- ▶ Fr. Anthony Scott
  - *“Good and Faithful Servant – Stewardship in the Orthodox Church”*
  - Stewardship Workshop Materials
- ▶ Michael Durall
  - Creating Congregations of Generous People
- ▶ Fr. John Dresko
  - Four Stewardship articles
- ▶ Various other sources including stewardship materials from various parishes.

# Stewardship Plateaus

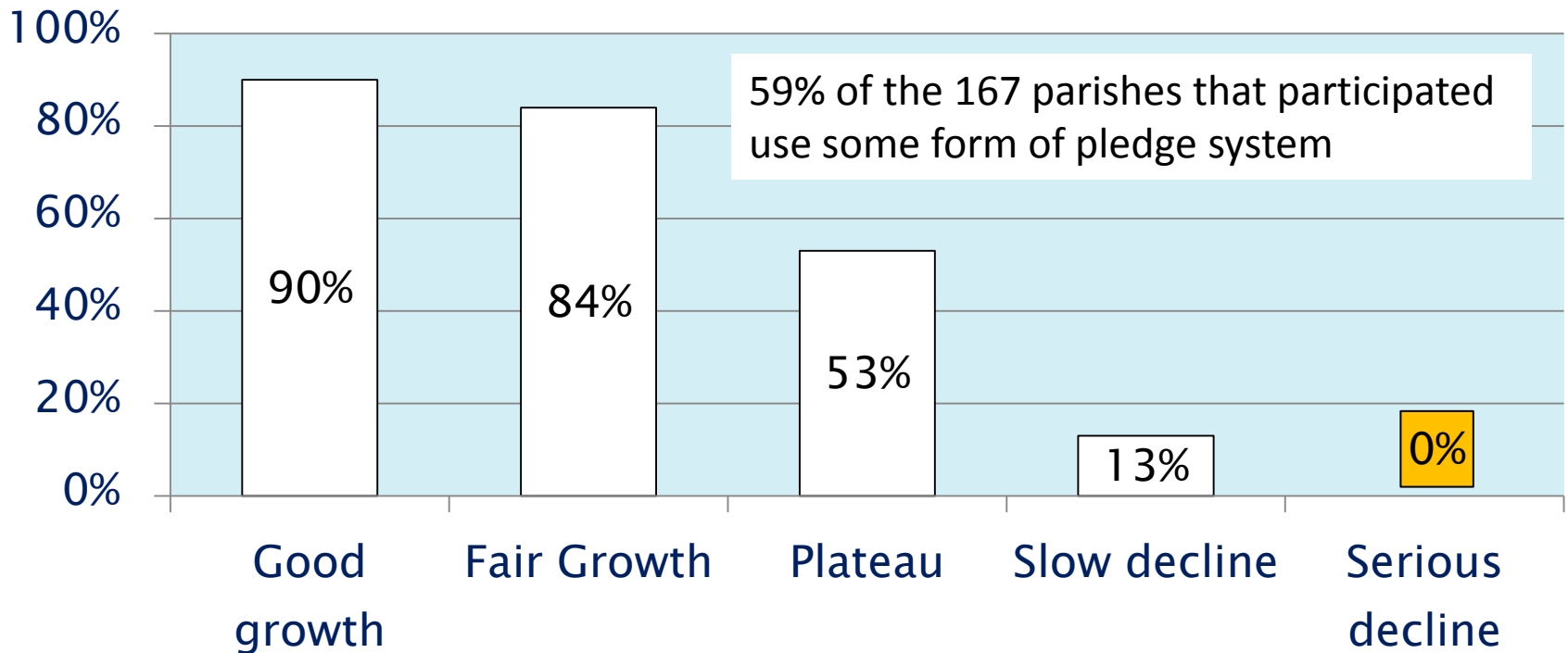


# Stewardship Data

»» Various Studies

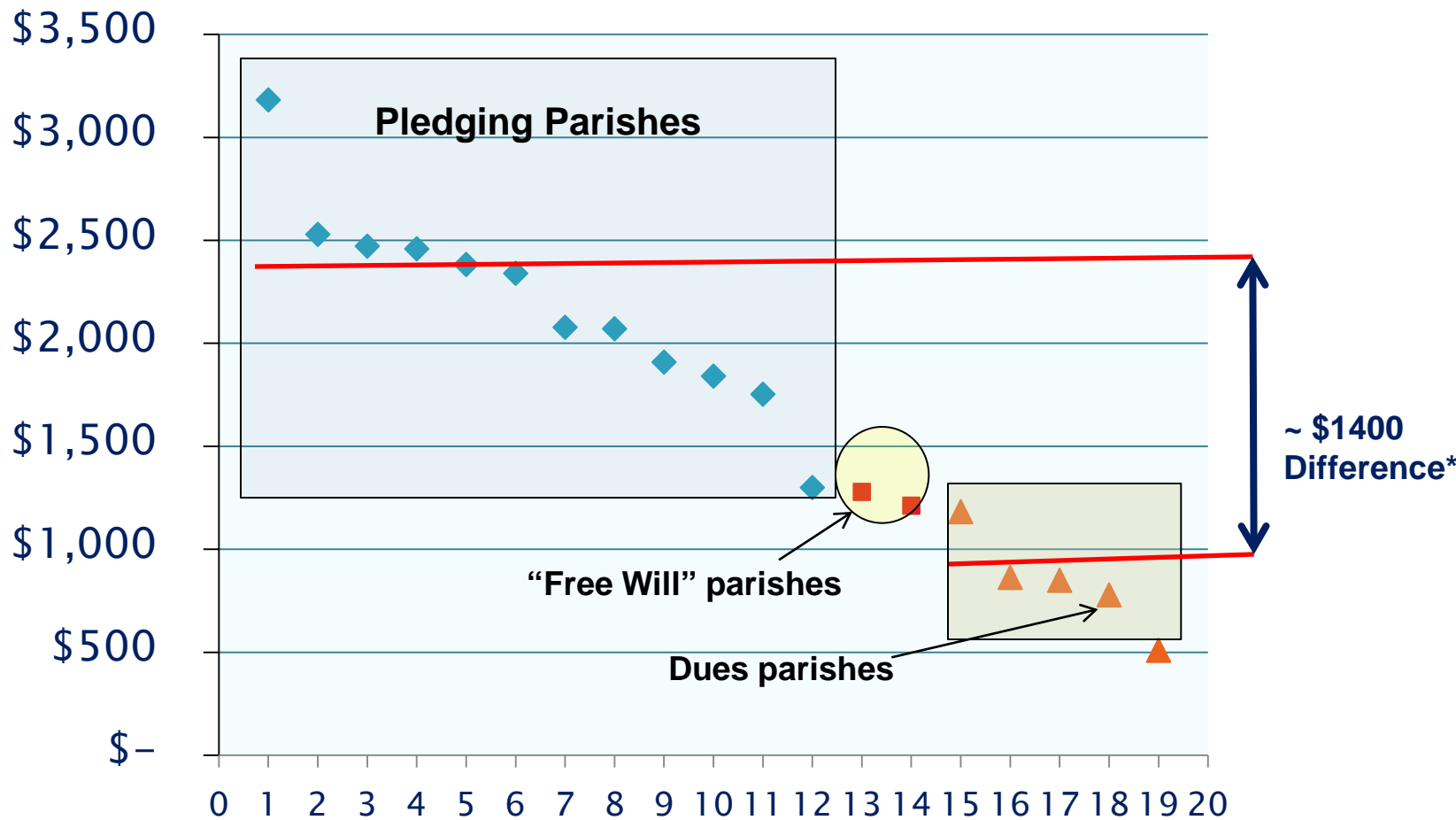
# OCA Parish Life Study 2002

## Percent of Parishes in Each Category Using a “Pledge System”



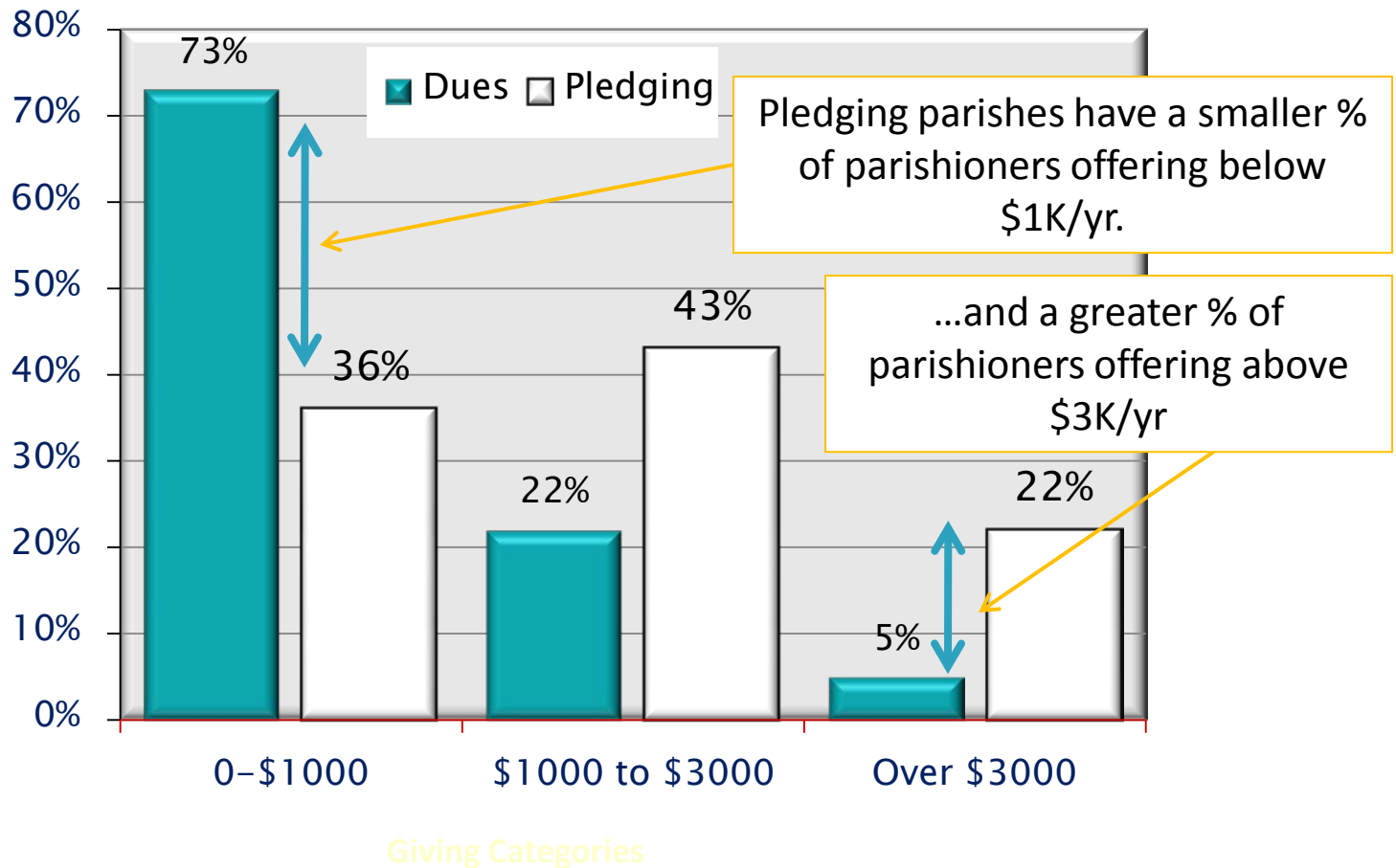
# Diocese of Midwest ~ 2008

## Average Annual Offerings Per Household



\* Differences in stewardship method is *one* factor that explains the difference in avg. offering. There are others.

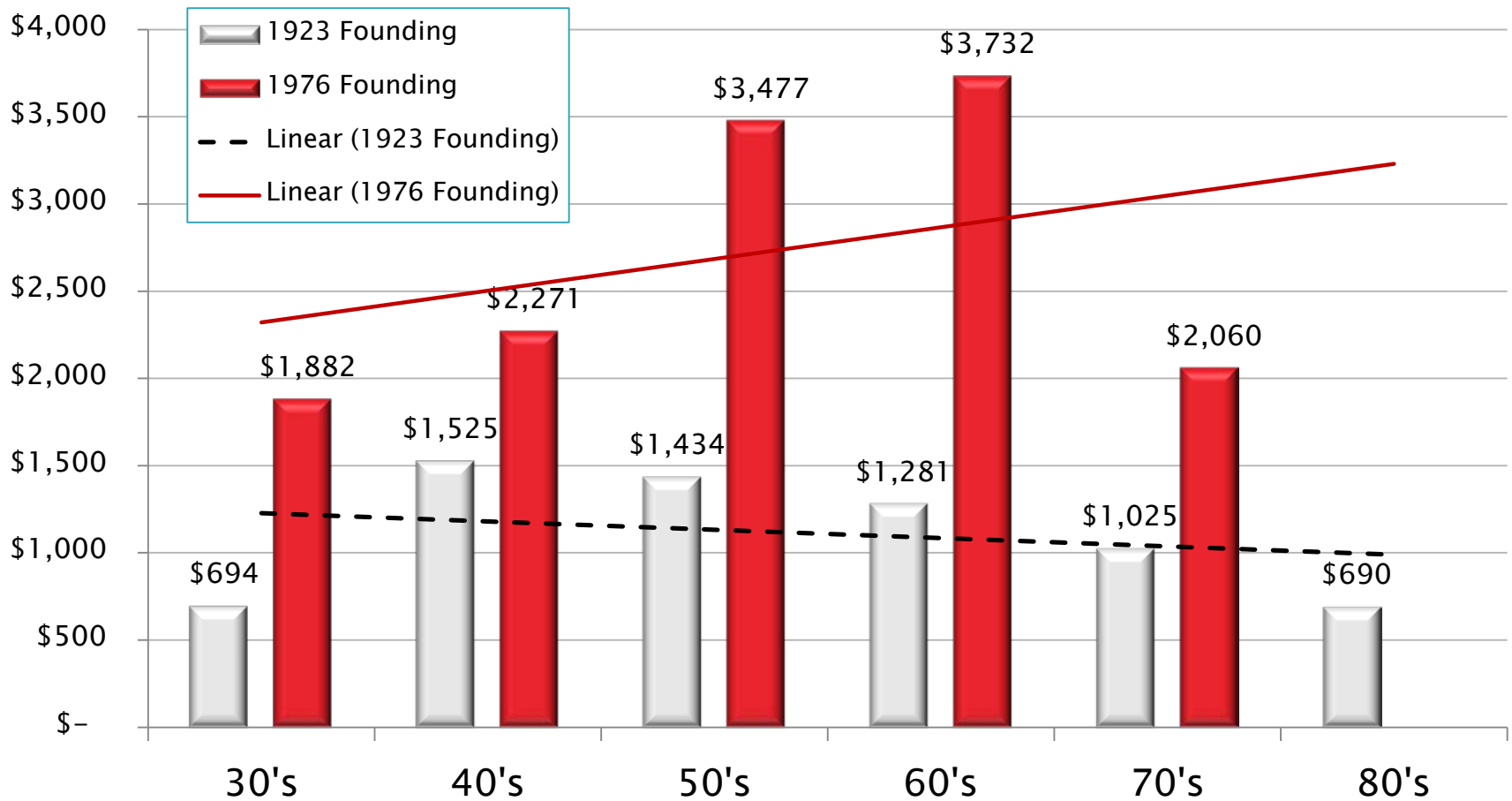
# Diocese of Midwest Offerings by \$ Amount





# Average Annual Pledge by Age

*Comparison of Heritage & OCA Era Parishes*



# Possible Conclusions

- Parishes on pledge systems are more likely to be growing than those on dues systems.
  - No growing parishes use dues system.
  - A few parishes on pledge system are declining
- Parishes on dues systems generate far smaller donations per household than parishes on non-dues systems.
- Some Orthodox Christians tithe.
- People who plan their giving, either by making a pledge or by pre-determining a percentage to contribute to the church give significantly more than those who decide what to give on a week-to-week basis.



# The Unfortunate Stewardship Cycle

