

12.1.2018

Common Fund Memo

To: All communities
From: National Secretary

What is the Common Fund?

The common fund is a gesture that educates the person to a communal conception of personal property, to the awareness of poverty as an evangelical virtue, and a gesture of gratitude for what one experiences in the life of the Movement.

Growing in this awareness is not automatic. To understand and grasp it we are invited to participate faithfully to a simple gesture that over time will shift the way in which we think of property and money. Fr. Giussani in the early days of the Movement said, “Money, the concrete expression of our possession to the world, is not ‘ours’. Therefore, we spread the habit to young people not to take anything (for example, tips, gifts, or salaries,) without giving something first to the ‘missions’ (i.e. for the needs of the Church in the world).” (*Porta la speranza*, pp. 71-72).

Fr. Giussani saw the common fund as a simple and essential educational proposal in our experience: giving a part of what you have for the common work, which is the Movement. The participation to the common fund asks of each one of us to commit to a monthly donation of a freely decided amount. What is important is not the amount of the donation one gives, but faithfulness to the commitment.

What is the Regional Common Fund used for?

The Regional Common Fund responds to the practical, charitable, and missionary needs of the communities in any given region for without economic means communities would cease to exist. The activities of a community bring with them costs at the local, regional and national level (for example: renting rooms, organizing an event, travel expenses, translations and publications of Fr. Giussani’s works, etc.). In addition, and more essentially, there are also the needs of members in the community in financial difficulty.

Why Pledge?

The Movement expenses are sustained exclusively from the common fund donations of the people who participate. Your pledge will allow to forecast how much money will be available to respond to the needs of the communities around the country which in turn will allow every community, every region, and the nation as a whole to develop a budget, as well.

Our Goal

On many occasions, Fr. José has communicated his desire for everyone in the United States to live the experience of the Movement (where they are) in its fullness. The essential elements of the life of the Movement are the school of community, charitable work and the common fund.

In *The Religious Awareness of Modern Man*, we read, “the radical genius of the person lies in the strength in the awareness of belonging.” This awareness of belonging, this new self-awareness is awakened through relations, through gestures, and not through intellectual debates. Therefore, attention to all the elements is critical.

Our goal is to encourage everyone to participate.