

# Apple Pie Day

## **Synopsis:**

Declining attendance and daunting fixed costs are an everyday reality for many Christian churches in Canada and around the world today. The cost of operating the church is not subsidized by any government or private agency. It is a combination of fundraising throughout the dioceses and other religious endeavors that churches continue to fund their own operations. Communities and members of the church play a vital role in the ongoing cost-recovery of church operations and infrastructure. Therefore, localized efforts are key in keeping a specific religious institution within the area. These fundraisers can often be an opportunity for church members and other community members to interact and form bonds amongst each other.

Moreover, the funds raised help keep the community alive and vibrant. This is an opportunity for intergenerational learning, with elders who have been making these pies and other fundraisers for decades have the opportunities to teach their learnings to the younger generation who is now becoming interested in contributing to the survival and vibrancy of the church. By working in groups together everyone has the opportunity to contribute with their specific skills while mentoring others to learn the ‘tricks of the trade’.

These events, they are about more than raising funds for church operations; they are also an opportunity for community building, fostering new relationships, and strengthening existing friendships. It is also an occasion for non-churchgoers to participate in a community activity and connect with individuals from the parish. The photo-essay encompasses all of the elements discussed above as it depicts an apple pie baking session meant to raise funds for the local parish. There is evidence of the intergenerational teachings, the sense of community, and the reach to all community members through advertising and a sale open to the general public.