

“Good morning. My name is _____ and I am a parishioner here at _____. I am also our Parish Representative for the Diocesan Annual Appeal.

I am speaking to you today because I believe in the work of the Annual Appeal and the ministries it supports. I have made my pledge and I ask you to join me in supporting the good work of our local Church.

Donations to the Appeal have a direct impact on all of us – parishioners, our families and friends, our neighbors and you and I.

Gifts to the Appeal are ONLY used for five specific Diocesan Ministries and nothing else. The five ministries supported by your Appeal gifts are:

- Catholic Social Services and Parish Social Justice Grants
- Catholic Education in Schools and Parishes
- Seminarian Education and Care of Our Retired and Ill Clergy
- Parish Life Programs and Services and
- Catholic Media and Communications

Without funds provided by your gifts to the Appeal, these ministries would not fully serve everyone who depends on this assistance each year.

1) THROUGH CATHOLIC SOCIAL SERVICES & PARISH SOCIAL JUSTICE GRANTS, we serve the poorest, weakest and most vulnerable children and adults most in need of our care. Your gifts to the Appeal help feed the hungry, clothe the naked and offer shelter, counseling and assistance for our brothers and sisters in Christ.

Social Justice Grants to Parishes support food and clothing pantries in our parishes, parish dinners for the elderly and families and outreach to prison inmates.

2) THROUGH OUR OFFICE OF PARISH LIFE, programs and resources support all aspects of life in our parish communities – Liturgy & Worship, Community Service & Social Concerns, Training for Parish Ministries and more.

And in response to Pope Francis, the Office of Parish Life and the Vocations Office have begun wonderful new programs to foster “The Young Church.”

3) THROUGH CATHOLIC EDUCATION IN OUR SCHOOLS AND PARISHES, we pass on the faith to our children. Last year, nearly 15,000 children received religious education in parishes and more than 4,500 students received a quality, faith-based education in our Catholic schools.

4) THROUGH CLERGY CARE AND EDUCATION, we directly support our priests, permanent deacons, and seminarians. Appeal gifts assist our seminarians with the cost of their education and provide for the care of our ill and retired priests. Your gift to the Appeal also helps the Vocations Office guide men considering the priesthood. Currently we have 12 seminarians preparing to serve our Diocese.

5) THROUGH CATHOLIC MEDIA AND COMMUNICATION, we give everyone the opportunity to “hear the Good News” through *The Catholic Light*, Catholic Television and our Diocesan website. Appeal donations support broadcast of the daily Mass and special liturgies at the Cathedral.

Every time some good is done in our Diocese because of your Appeal gift, YOU become part of this good work. – Please say ‘Yes’ to a homeless veteran who has nowhere to turn, to a poor family who needs housing, to our ill and elderly priests needing medical care and to our children who are the future of our Church.

Put your faith into action! If you have not done so already, I ask you to pledge your support to the Diocesan Annual Appeal today. Pledge envelopes are available in the back of the church. Gifts of any amount are welcome and pledges may be spread out over several months.

AND when we exceed our Parish Appeal Goal, 75% of the amount over goal comes back to our parish in rebates.

St. Paul tell us: ‘You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity.’

or

Jesus reminds us: “Whatever you do for the least of my brothers and sisters, that you do onto me.”

Thank you for your kind attention and support. Should you have any questions, kindly see me following the Mass.