



Assisting people in need

*** **PASTOR'S INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE** ***

(AFTER THE GOSPEL)

PASTOR (or designee):

Today we join with all the other parishes in our Diocese for the 2018 Annual Catholic Appeal.

The Annual Catholic Appeal is our annual tradition that connects us to our brothers and sisters across the Diocese who are suffering and need our help. Our support of the Annual Catholic Appeal is, in itself, at the heart of mercy...doing something out of love for the sake of the other, as Christ Jesus has challenged us to do.

Let us reflect for a moment on our local acts of mercy...

- How have we at _____ Parish fostered a “**culture of mercy**”?
- How have we spent our parish share of the Annual Catholic Appeal to “**alleviate the suffering of our brothers and sisters**”?

DIRECTOR OR VOLUNTEER in the parish outreach ministry funded by the parish share of the Annual Catholic Appeal:

Share **one 2-minute** story of a **specific** person or family served by a parish ministry funded by the parish share of the Annual Catholic Appeal.

- What brought the person to the parish?
- What was the person's situation?
- What was the parish able to do to help the person?

(TIP: Limit the story to two minutes by writing a maximum 300 word script ahead of time.)

PASTOR:

This is only one example of the _____ (number) of people and families that our parish _____ ministry was able to serve last year because of **your** generosity to the Annual Catholic Appeal.

Whatever you give means that someone will _____ (eat, be housed, have clothes, pay rent or utility bills, etc.).

Whatever you give helps our parish community to alleviate the suffering of our brothers and sisters.

Let us listen to what we are able to do – as one body in Christ – by sharing our resources.

PLAY VIDEO OR AUDIO PRESENTATION

INVITE PARISHIONERS TO PARTICIPATE

PASTOR:

Pope Francis has asked each of us to promote a culture of mercy...where no one looks at another with indifference or turns away.

It is now time for each of us to consider our commitment in support of the critical needs of our brothers and sisters.

FILL OUT AND COLLECT ENVELOPES AFTER THE VIDEO

There are commitment envelopes in the pews. I ask those sitting at the ends to pass down the envelopes and pencils. If one adult in each household will take one, we will fill it out together. (Pause) – As the envelopes and pencils are being passed, please remember that our goal is to increase participation – so please do what you can.

We know that some of you may have already filled out the envelope that you received in the mail. If you have already sent the envelope in, please bear with us.

We're going to "walk through" the envelope together:

The pledge form is on the inside left panel of the envelope.

- **Step 1:** Prayerfully consider your gift. I encourage everyone to consider an ongoing monthly gift or a 10-month pledge. For instance, a commitment of only \$25 per month provides \$250 over a ten-month period. All gifts are important. Please do what you can.
- **Step 2:** Next is a space to record your gift. (pause)
- **Step3:** Next is a space to complete your household and parish information – please clearly print the parish name, your name, address, and phone. (*pause*)

If you prefer not to give your name, it is OK to leave the space blank. Your envelope will be counted as “Anonymous” to help us track our parish participation. If you choose not to give your household information, please don’t forget to print our parish name.

- **Step 4:** On the bottom of the form is the space to record the payment method you would like to use.

If you wish to make a cash contribution to the Appeal, please put the cash into the Appeal envelope so we can record it as one of our parish contributions and to be able to thank you for your generosity if you choose to include your name.

(CRITICAL STEP FOR PASTOR: *While you are allowing time to complete the envelopes, fill out your own envelope. It is important to repeat this at each Mass.)*

Announce the collection of the envelopes:

Thank you for your patience with this process. At this time, I would ask the ushers to collect the Appeal commitments. Please place your sealed envelope in the collection basket. Then together we will offer our gifts to God in gratefulness for His many blessings and in service to those in need among us.