

Pulpit Announcement

Appeal Kick-Off Weekend

The following sample Pulpit Announcement is recommended for use on the Kick-Off Weekend (February 13-14) along with an audio/video mini-story.

You recently received a packet in the mail requesting your support of the 2021 Catholic Ministries Appeal. Please prayerfully consider making a gift and know that your gift will help fund critical ministries that benefit more than 140,000 Catholics and countless others throughout southern Minnesota.

St. Paul reminds us in Ephesians that we are to:

“Live the truth in love and grow in every way into Him who is the head, Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament with the proper functioning of each part, brings about the body’s growth and builds itself up in love.” [Ephesians 4: 15-16]

The theme, *Share the Light of Hope*, emphasizes the importance of using our time, talent, and treasure for the benefit of our wider church community. As individual members of the Body of Christ, we all possess different gifts and talents for furthering the ministry of Christ and His Church. God’s generous gifts should be returned with increase to Him by sharing the peace and joy of Christ with all those we encounter.

The Appeal-funded ministries provide ample opportunities for you and others to Share the Light of Hope. Whether it is through social outreach programs that help families in crisis, Catholic schools’ education, training and support for catechists involved in parish religious education programs, youth ministry, college campus ministry, lifelong faith formation for all ages, retreats and pilgrimages, and so much more, you make it possible through your sacrificial gift.

[Now you may want to briefly share some examples of how your parish directly benefits from Appeal-funded ministries. Refer to the *Appeal-Funded Ministries* section in this guidebook.]

Please note that all gifts will be used solely for the restricted purposes of the 2021 Catholic Ministries Appeal. The Appeal supports specific ministries and programs of the Diocese of Winona-Rochester and other Catholic organizations.

Now is the time to pull together as the Body of Christ to support the Catholic Ministries Appeal. Each of us plays an important role as St. Paul names us the “ligaments of the body,” and we, through our support, bring about the Church’s growth by building it up in love.

Give the most generous gift you can. We need not only your financial gifts, but your prayers as well, in order that we may fulfill our parish goal for the Appeal. Thank you for your support, and let us pray:

“Heavenly Father, may we Share the Light of Hope through our support of the 2021 Catholic Ministries Appeal. We thank you, Lord, for the many blessings you have bestowed upon us. We cherish the gifts of time; talent and treasure that each member of our universal Church family makes to build up Christ’s Church in love.

We ask you, Lord, to send us forth in this spirit of love to serve our communities and our world with open hearts. Amen.”