

Commitment Weekend Ask Presentation (Sample)

For the past few weeks, you have been hearing about the *Catholic Ministry Appeal*. We have shared information here at the parish, and you should have received a message from Bishop Parkes in the mail.

As your pastor, I want to let you know that I support this appeal and the hope it provides for both our parish and for those it helps bring closer to Christ.

The *Catholic Ministry Appeal* is 100% voluntary and 100% of donations will go to focused ministry.

This appeal provides the means to continue the mission that Christ has entrusted to us: to serve, to educate, to care for the poor, and to be a beacon of hope for all.

The ***Catholic Ministry Appeal*** is an invitation for us all to take an active role in supporting the Church beyond the borders of our parish. Through our appeal, we can support:

- ministries such as Catholic Charities, who served 202,650 meals and housed or sheltered 5,009 clients.
- programs such as the Good Samaritan Project, who in 2024 gathered 313 high school students from 17 parishes and Catholic schools to serve those in need at 12 different service sites in our five counties.
- ministries such as the Diaconate Office who invited 20 men and their wives to begin the discernment process for the Diaconate, anticipating a possible ordination in the Fall of 2029.
- ministries such as the office of Vocations can continue serving its largest seminarian class since 2019, allowing these men to continue embracing God's call to serve by expressing God's saving love within us as we help give shape to the world.
- protection for our children and vulnerable adults through the Safe Environment program which averages 5,000 fingerprint screenings and 7,500 trainings each year to diocesan, parish and school staff and volunteers

We are all invited to make a gift, a courageous gift, that demonstrates how as disciples we are living the Gospel and sharing it with those we encounter. Now more than ever, it is vital for us to do what we can, when we can. To act as a people who put their faith in God and do good works in his name. I am asking you to make a commitment to the appeal today.

This appeal is based on equal sacrifice, not equal giving. I cannot know how this past year has affected every family, and therefore, I cannot ask everyone to consider the same size gift. What I can do is ask is for all to pray and make a gift that is right for them. I know from personal experience that it is easier to make a gift of sacrifice if you can spread it out, rather than make a full, one-time gift. Can you consider a gift of \$30, \$50 or \$100 each month for the rest of this year? That amount will equal a commitment of \$300, \$500 or \$1,000 by the end of the year.

As you think about what you will give, remember, this gift is in addition to your offertory giving not in place of. Also, please know I understand everyone will do their very best to fulfill their commitments, and that is all we ask - that you do your best.

If last year taught us anything, we should know by now that unexpected things happen, and you may need to change your pledge. That's ok. If a change is needed, it can be made. And if that change is an increase, well, that is ok, too.

For those who have never given, it is vital to understand their participation matters. It is easy, when surrounded by so many people, to think that no one will notice if you don't participate. But each gift makes a difference, and it is noticed.

At this point, I ask everyone to make their commitment over the next few minutes.

For those of you who have already made a gift or pledge by sending in the commitment card that you received at home or by visiting the online giving page, you do not need to complete another form, but I do thank you for your generosity and ask you to pray for the appeal as the rest of us take a little time now to participate.

If you did not bring your commitment card from home, please complete a commitment envelope found in your pew OR you can use the QR code to go online and complete a commitment through the secure website.

If you choose to use the envelope, please complete all the information and print clearly. The envelope has a section with some options for 10 equal monthly payments or a one-time gift. For example, 10 monthly payments of \$30 equal a total pledge of \$300.

Once you decide on the amount you want to give, fill out the giving information on the bottom left of the envelope – the area marked "Total Pledge/Amount Enclosed/Balance Due." Also indicate if you want to make payments monthly or annually, or as one-time gift to complete your "Balance Due."

A down payment on your commitment is not necessary or required. If you are able to make one, please do. If you can't make a down payment, don't let that stop you from making your commitment.

I am going to pause to give those who haven't yet completed their commitment time to fill out their forms either online or with the envelope, while I do the same. (PAUSE AND FILL OUT AN ENVELOPE, EVEN IF YOU HAVE ALREADY DONE SO. THIS WILL ENCOURAGE YOUR PARISHIONERS TO DO THE SAME.)

At this time, I ask the Hospitality Ministers/Ushers to pick up all pledge envelopes, including those cards received at home that have been brought in today (or have parishioners bring them to the altar).

Thank you once again for listening with an open heart.