

## LAY WITNESS SCRIPT – SAMPLE #1

Good evening/good morning! My name is \_\_\_\_\_. My family and I have been a member of St. \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ year and I have been asked by Father, Msgr. (pastor's name) to speak to you briefly about the Bishop's Annual Appeal. Since the Bishop's Annual Appeal was established over 20 years ago, the Diocese of Kansas City – St. Joseph, through its parishes, schools, ministries, programs and Catholic Charities has enjoyed a long history of service and support for the many needs of the people of Northwest Missouri.

It is very important to reach out beyond our individual parish boundaries and realize that a donation to the Appeal will help address the needs of our entire diocesan family. The funds raised through the Bishop's Annual Appeal help to support the diocesan ministries which provide for the physical, educational and spiritual needs of thousands of families every year. **No contributions to the annual appeal are used for legal expenses.**

One specific example is that through the care for our retired and infirmed Priests who have given their lives and careers to serving the faithful of our diocese. Another example and on the opposite end of the spectrum is the education and formation of our future Deacons and Priests in the Seminary.

One of the Social Service and Outreach Ministries funded by the Appeal is Catholic Charities. Catholic Charities serves thousands of people each year including the elderly who may need special assistance in their daily lives. In addition, those people in dire need of temporary assistance with their rent payments and other living expenses turn to Catholic Charities for help.

As you consider your contribution to this year's Annual Appeal, remember that your gift of treasure is your answer to Jesus' call to discipleship by serving the needs of the less fortunate. When we give of our treasure, it is beneficial in promoting good spiritual health of the individual, family, and community because it enables us to give thanks and return to God the many blessings that have been bestowed upon us.

When considering an amount to contribute, please reflect on your many blessings. As Catholics we should make a conscious effort to give from our first fruits. That is, we should give from our substance and not from our surplus. By giving of our substance, we offer a sacrifice, which leads to a conversion of our heart and mind.

Please consider increasing your gift by taking advantage of a pledge plan. By making a pledge, it becomes a convenient and less painful way to spread smaller payments over a period of time which will enable you to share more with those in need.

In closing, as you reflect on your contribution to this year's Bishop's Annual Appeal, please accept my heartfelt appreciation for your generosity which will provide hope to those who sometimes view their lives as hopeless.