

SAMPLE PASTOR PRESENTATION FOR IN-PEW

This weekend, in all parishes throughout the Diocese of Kansas City – St. Joseph, Catholics are celebrating In-Pew Weekend in support of the Bishop’s Annual Appeal. Our local church is comprised of 100 parishes and missions serving more than 52,000 Catholic households in Northwest Missouri.

Every Catholic family is asked to participate in the Bishop’s Annual Appeal as a sign of our unity in Christ. The Bishop’s Annual Appeal provides support to the many local ministries, services and outreach throughout Northwest Missouri.

For many years, the Bishop’s Annual Appeal has supported parishes in need, helped feed and clothe many people, educated current and future generations in our faith, helped train men now serving as pastors and permanent deacons and support many ministries the make up our diocese. As we continue to grow, the Bishop’s Annual Appeal continues to provide necessary resources in response to new and challenging needs.

There are many priorities and needs facing our Church that no one parish can address. Some require the strength and resolve of our entire Catholic Community working together. Through our collective efforts we can continue to build the Father’s Kingdom by advancing the work of the Church in Northwest Missouri.

As past generations have done for us, we are responsible for leaving a healthy church for future Catholics. While we cannot always be the one to comfort the grieving, feed the hungry, teach the young and minister to those in need, we can – through our generosity – ensure that our diocesan Church is strong, vibrant and able to meet the needs of so many in the year ahead.

The Annual Appeal provides the financial lifeblood for a broad range of ministries, apostolates, and outreach programs throughout our diocese. Your financial support has a positive influence in the lives of your brothers and sisters in need. While I am not aware of your current financial situation, I ask that you make a gift today, if you have not already done so.

For some, it may be a pledge of \$30 a month over the next 10 months, a total pledge of \$300, a pledge of around a \$1.00 per day, roughly the cost of a bottle of water a day. So please identify your ability to give based on your blessings and fill out a card today.

I ask those of you that have already pledged to bear with us for just a few minutes.

The ushers/hospitality ministers are distributing the Bishop’s Annual Appeal envelopes. I ask that a representative from every household take an envelope and complete it. If you have already given, I thank you and please mark you envelope as “already contributed”. Remember, you can send in a one-time gift today, make a pledge to be paid later or make a gift by credit card.

To make it easy I am going to walk you through filling out the envelope....if you fill out the envelope appropriately it cuts down on our staff time...so please fill out your name, address and parish name completely including your email address if you prefer a more "green" thank you and/or pledge reminder. Don't forget our parish name so we get "credit" toward our parish goal. Remember, there is no need to make a payment today unless you wish. Don't forget to check how many months you want to spread your payment over. I will give all of you a moment to fill out the complete information.

The ushers will come around and pick up all the envelopes. On behalf of thousands of person in our Diocese who benefit from your generosity, I thank you for your patience and participation.

May God continue to bless you and your family for sharing some of the many blessings that God has bestowed upon you and your family.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR A SUCCESSFUL IN-PEW APPEAL

With your guidance and instruction, the in-pew appeal will play a large role on the overall success of the Bishop's Annual Appeal in your parish. The following bullet points outline the recommended process to conduct the in-pew appeal.

- The Pastor/Pastoral Administrator is scheduled to give the In-Pew Weekend presentation endorsing this year's Bishop's Annual Appeal and requesting all parishioners who have not yet made their pledge to do so today at Mass.
- Pledge envelopes are distributed by ushers when instructed to by the Pastor/Pastoral Administrator.
- Pledge envelopes are filled out upon the instruction from the Pastor/Pastoral Administrator.
- Pledge envelopes are collected separately from the regular offertory collection.
- Ask for households to make a pledge.
- Remind parishioners of the importance of the Bishop's Annual Appeal. Reinforce some of the key elements of the case – how the financial support helps – being sure to emphasize the programs and activities you believe will achieve the strongest response among parishioners.
- Ask that all households complete a pledge envelope today!
- The Pastor/Pastoral Administrator guides families through the completion of the Bishop's Annual Appeal envelopes.
- Remind parishioners of your parish goal and goal for 100% participation.
- Upon completion of the envelopes, thank all those who have responded for their participation.