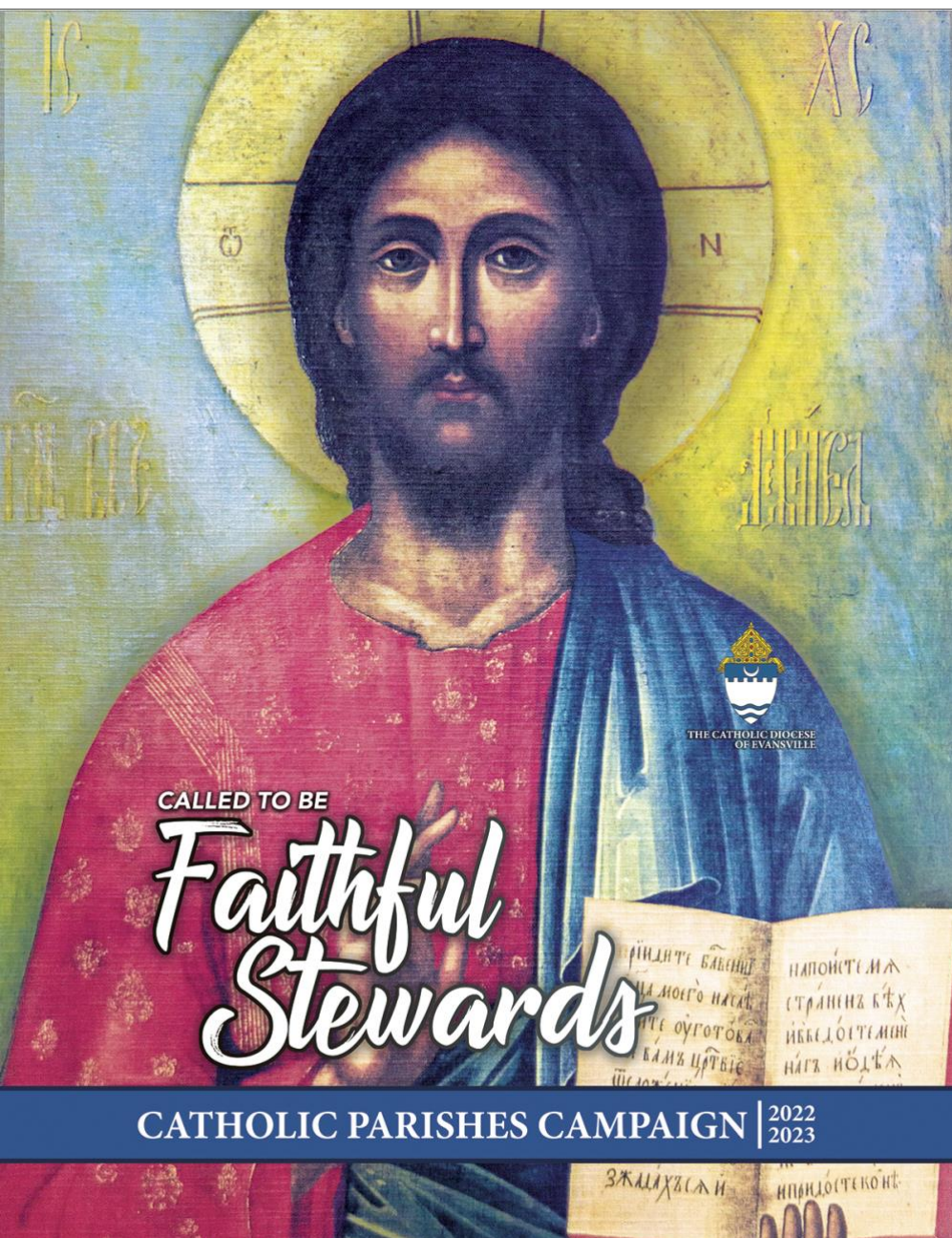


*Ideas, Guidance and Answers for Parishes to
Help Manage a Successful Appeal*

Diocese Of Evansville Called to be Faithful Stewards 2022-23



Evansville Diocese
Office of Stewardship

The Office of Stewardship

The Office of Stewardship promotes the mission of the diocese by educating diocesan members to respond to the call of discipleship through stewardship of time, talent and treasure.

Stewardship is a total way of life. It is not a program, but a spiritual consciousness based in Scripture, which holds that all we are and all we have flows from God's varied grace. In turn, we serve as spiritual caretakers of our spiritual and worldly blessings, responding to the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy.

Development is the strategy within this spiritual relationship that allows Catholic parishes and institutions to attain their goals through a means of transformation, conversion, visioning, planning, public relations, and charitable giving concepts.

What identifies a steward? Safeguarding material and human resources and using them responsibly are one answer; so is generous giving of time, talent, and treasure. But being a Christian steward means more. As Christian stewards, we receive God's gifts gratefully, cultivate them responsibly, share them lovingly in justice with others, and return them with increase to the Lord. (Stewardship: A Disciple's Response, A Pastoral Letter on Stewardship, US Conference of Catholic Bishops)

"God made everything; He made everything not from any necessity, nor for the sake of supplying any want, but solely from His own goodness." St. Augustine

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Greetings of Peace and Joy in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ!

I am pleased to offer to you this manual for assisting you in offering ***Called to be Faithful Stewards*** – the Diocese of Evansville’s Catholic Parishes Campaign to your parishioners.

I would first like to draw your attention to the name of our annual appeal because it is changing. For many years, it was called the Catholic Parishes Campaign, or CPC as it was referred to by everyone. While that name felt familiar and comfortable to many people, we found that it did not really reflect our overall objective in holding the appeal in the first place.

We recognize, and are certain that you do, too, that holding an annual appeal is a necessary activity to support the sacramental, ministerial and administrative works of the bishop in the Diocese of Evansville. This work is carried out in partnership between the parishes of the diocese and the directors and their offices at the Catholic Center and Catholic Charities.

We all do this work to build the kingdom of God by serving the needs of our parishioners in helping them to deepen their relationship to Jesus Christ.

The funds we raise during the annual appeal are key to our mission and are part of our answer to the Gospel call of stewardship.

Our understanding of stewardship is that it is far greater than just making it be another name for paying our fair share. Rather, stewardship encompasses our lives and is built on a foundation of four pillars:

- **Hospitality** – Christian kindness;
- **Prayer** – a heart-to-heart with God;
- **Formation** – continuous conversion;
- **Service** – love in action.

When we ask for financial support, a return of God’s gifts through contributions to the annual appeal, we are truly asking for our parishioners to build on those four pillars, to be faithful stewards in all aspects of their lives.

Yes, we are asking them to share their financial gifts with the Church. But what we are really asking is for them to share their entire LIVES with the Church; to build the kingdom of God; and to enter into a deeper relationship with Jesus, who is still the head of the Church.

Hence, ***Called to be Faithful Stewards*** is a far way to describe of our objectives in holding the appeal.

This year we will name the appeal:

Called to be Faithful Stewards
The Diocese of Evansville’s Catholic Parishes Campaign

Our plan for next year is to drop the “Catholic Parishes Campaign” portion of the name and call the annual appeal ***Called to be Faithful Stewards*** only.

Perhaps the hardest part of this change will be that we no longer call our annual appeal “CPC.” We are, however, confident that the name will soon become comfortable in its use.

Another significant change this year is on the pledge card.

If you will recall, we replaced the old CPC pledge cards last year with one that gave us better information and was more attractive. Some of you told us how we could change things to make them even better. We listened and made some of those changes.

What you will find on the new pledge card:

- The parishioner’s name and address are pre-printed on the card.
- A window envelope is provided for sending out the card.
- Donor information needs to be filled out on only one side of the card.

We believe this will make everyone’s experience better. However, if you see something that needs improvement, let us know.

Please take some time and review the material inside. It is put together to assist you in reaching your goal for the Catholic Parishes Campaign for 2022-23.

I ask for your prayers that we may open our hearts to God’s stewardship call and answer that call with love and generosity. The work of the Church is vital to the spiritual, and often physical, well-being of our people, and contributions from all of us help take those works from concept to reality.

One final note has to do with my status with the Diocese of Evansville. Last December I gave my notice to Bishop Siegel that I would be retiring on July 1, 2022. That assumed someone would be hired to take my place after that date. In spite of our best efforts, that has not happened. I have agreed to stay on in a consulting role in order to make sure that our parishes have all the resources they need to successfully implement Called to be Faithful Stewards again this year.

Peace,

Matthew N. Potter, CFP®
Director of Stewardship and Development

Important contact information

For questions or concerns regarding any part of the 2020 **Catholic Parishes Campaign**:

Matthew Potter
Director of Stewardship
812.424.5536
(307) 220.6608 cell
mpotter@evdio.org

Contact me for questions regarding any part of the appeal. If you would like me to come to your parish to speak about ***Called to be Faithful Stewards***, please make arrangements to do so as early as possible. I can be reached at all times, including evenings and weekends, on my cell phone. Please don't hesitate to call, text, or email.

Important Dates

The *Called to be Faithful Stewards* presentation weekend is September 24 and 25, 2022. The Commitment Weekend is October 1 and 2, 2022. Please stick to that schedule.

On the following pages you will find charts that show an overview of the weekly activity designed to assist you in meeting your goal. Subsequent pages have a chart for each of the twelve weeks where the appeal should be in front of parishioners. The weekly activity pages will have recommended pulpit announcements, intercessory prayers, and bulletin announcements.

Please consider using the material provided here as opposed to using substitute texts. These announcements and prayers weave a common theme that builds on itself each week and helps to reinforce the messages of gratitude for past gifts, the importance of the appeal, how we can all participate in the support of the ministries and works of the diocese, how our gifts are used, and encouragement to continue supporting the appeal with current gifts and pledges.

While we do not want this to be the appeal that never ends, it is important to deliver a consistent message over time. There are good reasons for this, one being that not everyone attends Mass every weekend. In addition, it takes multiple exposures to something for it to become part of our nature. Mentioning CPC for two weekends will not help people see it as the important appeal that it is. Mentioning it three times each Mass over a twelve-week period will solidify its importance in people's minds.

Materials

The Message will publish its CPC issue on September 23.

By August 1, the Office of Stewardship will provide brochures that can be mailed with your solicitation letter. Additionally, posters, thermometers, and pledge cards will be available by the same date. Watch for updates regarding delivery and/or pick up of these materials.

Again this year we published our annual Impact Report. The report covers each of the offices of the diocese and how they have been careful stewards of the gifts made to the appeal. The report can be seen as a flip book or downloaded as a PDF here: <http://www.evdio.org/impact-report.html>. This is an outstanding resource for the times people ask you how the money they donated has been spent. Use this resource as a source of quotes, facts, figures and answers to the question "Where does the money go?"

You will notice that the pledge cards this year are different from last year. We have redesigned our pledge cards to give us better information so that we can be more responsive to our benefactors. Please use **ONLY** the new pledge cards and discard any old cards you may have remaining.

Electronic Giving

We encourage donors to use the convenient, safe and secure system we have in place to make online giving convenient when pledging their gift to ***Called to be Faithful Stewards***.

Week Number & Dates	Key Dates	Activity
#1 Monday, August 22 through Sunday, August 28	Saturday, August 27 & Sunday, August 28	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pulpit Announcement • Bulletin Announcement • Prayers of the Faithful Intercession
#2 Monday, August 29 through Sunday, September 4	Saturday, September 3 & Sunday, September 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pulpit Announcement • Bulletin Announcement • Prayers of the Faithful
#3 Monday, September 5 through Sunday, September 11	Monday, September 5 Saturday, September 4 & Sunday, September 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Send letter to parish leadership • Display Appeal Poster • Pulpit Announcement • Bulletin Announcement • Prayers of the Faithful
#4 Monday, September 12 through Sunday, September 18	Monday, September 12 Saturday, September 17 & Sunday, September 18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Send Pastor Letter to all parishioners • Pulpit Announcement • Bulletin Announcement • Prayers of the Faithful
#5 Monday, September 19 through Sunday, September 25	Presentation Weekend Saturday, September 24 & Sunday, September 25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CPC Lay Presentation • Have In-Pew pledge cards available • Pulpit Announcement • Bulletin Announcement • Prayers of the Faithful
#6 Monday, September 26 through Sunday, October 2	Commitment Weekend Saturday, October 1 & Sunday, October 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pastor Commitment Presentation • Have In-Pew pledge cards available • Pulpit Announcement • Bulletin Announcement • Prayers of the Faithful
#7 Monday, October 3 through Sunday, October 9	Saturday, October 8 & Sunday, October 9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pulpit Announcement • Bulletin Announcement • Prayers of the Faithful
#9 Monday, October 10 Sunday, October 16	Saturday, October 15 & Sunday, October 16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pulpit Announcement • Bulletin Announcement • Prayers of the Faithful

#10 Monday, October 17 Sunday, October 23	Monday, October 18 Saturday, October 22 & Sunday, October 25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pastor Reminder Letter to all • Pulpit Announcement • Bulletin Announcement • Prayers of the Faithful
#11 Monday, October 24 Sunday, October 30	Saturday, October 29 Sunday, October 30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pulpit Announcement • Bulletin Announcement • Prayers of the Faithful
#12 Monday, October 31 Sunday, November 6	Monday, November 1 Saturday, November 5 Sunday, November 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pastor follow-up letter to past donors only • Pulpit Announcement • Bulletin Announcement • Prayers of the Faithful

KEYS TO A SUCCESSFUL APPEAL

Called to be Faithful Stewards

A few words about this all-important committee.

This should not be either a make-work committee or an honorary committee. It is not a mandate that you have one, but it is strongly suggested that you do, as it will make your life easier and likely to make the campaign more successful because of the additional engagement of your parishioners. Parishioners who are engaged in their parish become MORE engaged in their parish. If someone joins your committee and is honored because you asked him/her to be on the committee, you will have gained not just a committee member, but an advocate.

People want to be involved. They want to be asked to be a part of something they believe in, and being asked to be on a committee that helps make a successful campaign is truly an honor. Few people will turn you down for this duty.

Take advantage of this knowledge and ask people who are NOT on a bunch of committees already.

Details

The *Called to be Faithful Stewards* committee should have 7 to 11 people on it. There are several expectations of the members and of you with respect to the committee:

1. **Each member should be willing to make a gift that is more than the equivalent of change in the pocket.** The commonly referred term is a “sacrificial” gift, meaning one that takes some prayer and discernment before being made, but not so large that it places the giver into financial hardship. Only the giver knows how much that is. The prospective committee member should be made aware of this BEFORE joining the committee. Tell them “I want you on the committee because I think you will be a valuable part of our team, but a requirement of being on this team is that you support ***Called to be Faithful Stewards***, and that your support will be unconditional and significant given your personal financial circumstances. Please take a few days to pray about this and then let me know your answer.”

Wait a few days and he/she will call you back. If not, call him/her, but be sure personal contact is made shortly after your meeting. If you don’t make that contact, it is unlikely that parishioner will be on this committee or available for any other work you might want them to do.

If you take the time and effort to gather the right people around you, you will create transformational opportunities for your parishioners. I can tell you from personal experience that when the Holy Spirit calls and your heart is open to Him, the possibilities are endless. People are craving this transformation. Given the opportunity they will embrace it and become completely engaged in their Church, and it starts with you asking them to work for free and give you their money. As crazy as that sounds, it is the absolute truth.

2. **Members should be willing to organize and run the campaign for the parish.** The idea is to get parishioners engaged and to take ownership of the campaign. If all a person wants is to have his/her name associated with the committee, you should tell him/her “thanks, but no thanks.”

You need people who possess the knowledge of how to organize and run a campaign as well as be willing to do the work necessary.

3. **Once you have handed- off the task of running the campaign, get out of the way.** This does not mean to lead them into the wilderness and abandon them, but you don't have to hover over them while they are working, either. Get reports from the committee to make sure they are covering things that need to be covered; give them access to the parts of this manual that pertain to them; give them support and encouragement when you attend their meetings; thank them for their time and their gifts; thank them again for their time and their gifts; thank them again for their time and their gifts.
4. **After the campaign is complete, have a party.** Everybody should be willing to celebrate success. Thank them again for their time and their gifts. Spring for a nice dinner for them AND their spouses, because they had a big part in the success as well. Make certificates of appreciation and give them out at the dinner. Send a handwritten card of thanks in the mail. The success you are celebrating is about the willingness of these people to be engaged with their Church and the Grace that comes upon them when working for their Church. The party should NOT be contingent upon reaching a financial goal. Trust that the Holy Spirit will provide what's needed as long as you and your committee put in what's needed.
5. Other items for the Campaign Committee:
 - a. Assist the pastor in conducting any parish level leadership and worker meetings.
 - b. Assist in recruiting a sufficient number of parish workers.
 - c. Promote support for ***Called to be Faithful Stewards*** among all parishioners.
 - d. Have a member give a lay witness talk about their experience with a Diocesan service or ministry.
 - e. Familiarize him/her with the services and ministries funded by ***Called to be Faithful Stewards***.
 - f. Maintain communication with the Diocesan office of Stewardship. Never hesitate to ask for additional materials or assistance.
 - g. Be available to assist on Commitment Weekend.

APPEAL ACTIONS:

- Educate yourself on the many good works of the appeal. Use the diocesan Impact Report for reference;
- Incorporate the prayerful aspects of the appeal, consider reciting the appeal prayer during Mass;
- Make your own gift first;
- Personalize the message for parishioners by highlighting local efforts supported by the appeal;
- Thank your parishioners who have given to the appeal in the past;
- Keep the Appeal in front of the parishioners by utilizing all materials provided by the Stewardship Office;
- Put together a *Called to be Faithful Stewards* committee.

PLEASE REMEMBER:

- People who feel inspired to support a cause give as much as they can;
- People who feel obligated to give tend to give the minimum expected;
- Do not underestimate the generosity of your parishioners. Give thanks to God for the good stewardship of your parishioners.

A SUCCESSFUL APPEAL REQUIRES:

- Strong, active leadership and involvement of the pastor;
- Careful planning and adherence to the plan;
- An enthusiastic presentation of the publicity materials;
- A focused attempt to create long-term relationships with parishioners;
- Personal face to face follow-up with larger donors;
- An emphasis on pledged gifts rather than one-time donations;
- Encourage online giving;
- Suggesting a reasonable, yet specific, increased gift. Increasing by 5% makes a difference;
- Education and communication – parishioners who understand the vital programs made possible by the appeal can educate others, ensuring parish success.

WE ASK THAT YOU DO NOT:

- Apologize for the appeal;
- Portray the appeal as a chore or required obligation;
- Say “just give what you can.”
- Encourage that everyone give the same amount;
- Ignore how much donors give. “I don’t want to know because I might treat them differently.”

PARISH / DIOCESAN RESPONSIBILITIES

Diocesan Responsibilities

Called to be Faithful Stewards is designed to be a partnership between the parishes and the diocesan Offices of Stewardship and Finance. The Office of Stewardship prepares appeal materials such as brochures, posters, images, sample letters and other pieces intended to provide ongoing support to parishes in their efforts to carry out a successful appeal. Parishes are asked to promote the appeal in a positive manner. The Finance Office records and processes all gifts, pledges, and payments as well as produces the pledge payment reminder statements.

Parish Leadership Responsibilities

Pastor, Parochial Vicar, and Deacons:

- Recruit a parish appeal committee
- Implement the appeal plan
- Set a positive tone in the parish for the appeal
- Address the appeal through homilies and pulpit announcements
- Pray for the success of the appeal during Mass and at various parish functions
- Approve the text of the pastor follow-up letters
- Make a pledge during the early stages of the Appeal

The Parish Business Manager, Parish Secretary and Parish Staff:

- Remain in regular contact with the Pastor, parish appeal committee and parish staff
- Contact the Office of Stewardship for additional materials or any other appeal-related support
- Ensure the appeal materials are included in the bulletins, at key entrances or in the pews as needed
- Contact the Finance Office for any financial reports or assistance
- Make a pledge during the early stages of the appeal

Parish Appeal Committee:

- The appeal committee should exemplify generous and consistent appeal supporters
- Provide additional support as needed by the pastor and parish staff
- Remain in regular contact with the pastor
- Ensure every parish family has the opportunity to learn about the appeal
- Make presentations at Mass during the appeal, if requested
- Demonstrate consistent support for the appeal
- Enthusiastically promote the appeal
- Make a pledge during the early stages of the appeal

RESPONSES TO FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. *I give to my parish, why should I give to Called to be Faithful Stewards?*

While the support of your parish is very important, ***Called to be Faithful Stewards*** provides us with the opportunity to share our love of God with others through our gifts of treasure. These gifts build the ministries of the Church which exist to help people grow in their relationship with Jesus Christ. From this relationship with Jesus, we come to a deeper appreciation for that which is God's desire for each and every one of us.

2. *This is a large request for my family to consider.*

We ask you to consider a gift amount that meets your ability to give. Gifts may be pledged over a twelve-month period, making it easier than contributing a one-time gift. Gifts may also be made in the form of cash and securities or a combination of both.

3. *Is my pledge legally binding?*

No. A pledge is a commitment made through prayer given your own set of circumstances at the time you make the pledge. If those circumstances change, you may adjust the pledge payments and/or balance accordingly.

4. *Why are pledges emphasized?*

Our appeal emphasizes gifts over a period of time because it allows individuals and families the opportunity to consider making a more significant impact than a one-time contribution. Donors who pledge are able to consider gifts typically larger than those who make one-time gifts.

5. *To what extent are gifts to Called to be Faithful Stewards tax deductible?*

Depending upon your personal financial situation, gifts to ***Called to be Faithful Stewards*** may be tax deductible. Donors with specific questions regarding tax deductibility should contact their financial advisors or tax preparers.

6. *How does my gift help my parish?*

Each parish is given a financial goal for the appeal. If pledges from parishioners do not reach that goal, the parish must make up the difference. If pledges exceed the goal, that money is then rebated back to the parish for its use.

7. *Is Called to be Faithful Stewards goal a tax?*

No. While the parish must meet its goal, each free-will offering to the appeal reduces that liability dollar-for-dollar. A tax is simply an amount that must be paid regardless of the free-will offering. (See accompanying article "Catechdraticum, Taxes, and Free-Will Offerings" in Appendix 1)

Week One Activity
Monday, August 22 - Sunday, August 28

Activity	When	Who is Responsible	Comments
Use appeal bulletin cover	Monday, August 22	Parish Staff	Contact Diocesan Stewardship Office for PDF if needed
Pulpit announcement	At Mass Saturday, August 27 and Sunday, August 28	Pastor / Deacon / Reader	See suggested announcement below
Prayers of the Faithful	At Mass Saturday, August 27 and Sunday, August 28	Pastor / Deacon/ Reader	See suggested prayers below
Bulletin announcement	At Mass Saturday, August 27 and Sunday, August 28	Parish Staff	See suggested bulletin announcement below

PULPIT ANNOUNCEMENT

Called to be Faithful Stewards - The Diocese of Evansville's Catholic Parishes Campaign is coming up in September. This gifts donated by the faithful to this annual appeal go to support the many works of the Diocese of Evansville in our communities.

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

In consideration of the many gifts that God has given to each of us, we ask that our parish community responds generously to the Catholic Parishes Campaign this year. We pray to the Lord.

BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENT

The gifts made to ***Called to be Faithful Stewards***, the Diocese of Evansville's annual appeal, have made a tremendous impact upon tens of thousands of members of our diocese. To see the good your gifts have done, visit <http://www.evdio.org/impact-report.html>. Please prayerfully consider a gift to the appeal again this year. More information to come.

Week Two Activity

Monday, August 29 - Sunday, September 4

Activity	When	Who is Responsible	Comments
Pulpit announcement	At Mass Saturday, September 3 and Sunday, September 4	Pastor / Deacon / Reader	See suggested announcement below
Prayers of the Faithful	At Mass Saturday, September 3 and Sunday, September 4	Pastor / Deacon/ Reader	See suggested prayers below
Bulletin announcement	At Mass Saturday, September 3 and Sunday, September 4	Parish Staff	See suggested bulletin announcement below

PULPIT ANNOUNCEMENT

Called to be Faithful Stewards - The Diocese of Evansville's Catholic Parishes Campaign begins in a few weeks. We encourage you to look at the Diocese of Evansville's Impact Report available online at the diocesan website, to see the outstanding work our gifts to the appeal have made possible. Please see the bulletin for the web address.

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

As we have received many blessings from the Lord, no matter how large or small, may we find it in our hearts to be charitable and help those in need by supporting the Catholic Parishes Campaign again this year. **We pray to the Lord.**

BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENT

Called to be Faithful Stewards - *The Diocese of Evansville's Catholic Parishes Campaign* "In 2021, the Office of Family and Life reinstated the Project Rachel post-abortion healing ministry at the diocesan level, offering spiritual and emotional healing to those who have been touched by abortion." <http://www.evdio.org/impact-report.html>. The Office of Family and Life is supported by our contributions to the Catholic Parishes Campaign.

Week Three Activity

Monday, September 5 - Sunday, September 11

Activity	When	Who is Responsible	Comments
Pulpit announcement	At Mass Saturday, September 10 and Sunday, September 11	Pastor / Deacon / Reader	See suggested announcement below
Prayers of the Faithful	At Mass Saturday, September 10 and Sunday, September 11	Pastor / Deacon/ Reader	See suggested prayers below
Bulletin announcement	At Mass Saturday, September 10 and Sunday, September 11	Parish Staff	See suggested bulletin announcement below

PULPIT ANNOUNCEMENT

The 2021 Catholic Parishes Campaign begins the weekend of September 24 and 25. The annual appeal supports the ministerial, pastoral, sacramental, and administrative works of the Diocese of Evansville. Our parish has a key role to play in the success of the appeal. We are grateful to you for your past support of this vital work and we ask that you prayerfully consider your continued support this year.

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

In gratitude for the generous gifts to the Diocese of Evansville's Catholic Parishes Campaign which benefitted tens of thousands of people in Southwestern Indiana, **We pray to the Lord.**

BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENT

Called to be Faithful and Prudent Stewards "Catholic Charities provides opportunities and hope for the future. One of the ways this is accomplished is through the Neighbor to Neighbor program. This faith-based, life-skills-education program helps families move away from financial dependence on social service agencies and move toward self-sufficiency." <http://www.evdio.org/impact-report.html>. Catholic Charities is supported by our contributions to the Catholic Parishes Campaign.

Week Four Activity
Monday, September 12 - Sunday, September 18

Activity	When	Who is Responsible	Comments
Pulpit announcement	At Mass Saturday, September 17 and Sunday, September 18	Pastor / Deacon / Reader	See suggested announcement below
Prayers of the Faithful	At Mass Saturday, September 17 and Sunday, September 18	Pastor / Deacon/ Reader	See suggested prayers below
Bulletin announcement	At Mass Saturday, September 17 and Sunday, September 18	Parish Staff	See suggested bulletin announcement below

PULPIT ANNOUNCEMENT

Next weekend is the presentation weekend for the Diocese of Evansville's 2021 Catholic Parishes Campaign. Our parish plays a key role in the success of the appeal. We are grateful to you for your past support of this vital work and we ask that you prayerfully consider continuing your support this year. If you have never made a contribution to the appeal, or if you haven't contributed lately, please consider doing so this year.

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

We pray for the success of the Catholic Parishes Campaign so that we may continue to build on the wonderful heritage of our Catholic faith and prepare the way of the future. **We pray to the Lord.**

BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENT

Called to be Faithful and Prudent Stewards "The Diocese has 11 seminarians, and the House of Discernment has four residents. These 15 men come from 12 different parishes across the Diocese. The Savio community has grown to nearly 200 teenage young men from more than half of the parishes in our 12 counties in the past three years." <http://www.evdio.org/impact-report.html>. The diocesan Office of Vocations is supported by our contributions to the Catholic Parishes Campaign.

Week Five Activity

Monday, September 19 - Sunday, September 25

Activity	When	Who is Responsible	Comments
CPC Presentation	At Mass Saturday, September 24 and Sunday, September 25	Selection of lay witness collaboration between pastor and the CPC committee.	Arrange to have a testimonial by a lay witness (See helpful suggestions section 4.e)
Pulpit announcement	At Mass Saturday, September 24 and Sunday, September 25	Pastor / Deacon / Reader	See suggested announcement below
Prayers of the Faithful	At Mass Saturday, September 24 and Sunday, September 25	Pastor / Deacon/ Reader	See suggested prayers below
Bulletin announcement	At Mass Saturday, September 24 and Sunday, September 25	Parish Staff	See suggested bulletin announcement below

PULPIT ANNOUNCEMENT

Our financial contributions to the Catholic Parishes Campaign are the primary way for us to join Bishop Siegel in support of the work of the Diocese of Evansville. We are grateful to you for your past support of this vital work and we ask that you prayerfully consider continuing your support this year. If you have never made a contribution to the appeal, or if you haven't contributed lately, please consider doing so this year.

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

We pray for the success of the Catholic Parishes Campaign so that we may continue to build on the wonderful heritage of our Catholic faith and prepare the way of the future. **We pray to the Lord.**

BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENT

Called to be Faithful Stewards We are called to care for the many gifts God has given us. It is good to use those gifts to grow God's kingdom in our diocese through our financial contributions to the Catholic Parishes Campaign. We are grateful to you for your past support of this vital work and we ask that you prayerfully consider continuing your support this year. If you have never made a contribution to the appeal, or if you haven't contributed lately, please consider doing so this year.

Week six Activity
Monday, September 26 - Sunday, October 2

Activity	When	Who is Responsible	Comments
Pastor Letter sent to parishioners	Letter must be mailed Monday, September 26	CPC Committee and parish staff	Letter should arrive in homes no later than Thursday, September 29
Pastor makes ask of parish	At Mass Saturday, October 1 and Sunday, October 2	Pastor (Do not delegate this!)	Pastor makes the ask, talks about mechanics of how gift is made. See helpful suggestions section 4.e)
Pulpit announcement	At Mass Saturday, October 1 and Sunday, October 2	Pastor / Deacon / Reader	See suggested announcement below
Prayers of the Faithful	At Mass Saturday, October 1 and Sunday, October 2	Pastor / Deacon/ Reader	See suggested prayers below
Bulletin announcement	At Mass Saturday, October 1 and Sunday, October 2	Parish Staff	See suggested bulletin announcement below

PULPIT ANNOUNCEMENT

Today we are asking for your financial support of ***Called to be Faithful Stewards, the Diocese of Evansville's 2022 Catholic Parishes Campaign***. Our parish plays a key role in the success of the appeal. We are grateful to you for your past support of this vital work and we ask that you prayerfully consider continuing your support this year. Please fill out and return the pledge card you received in the mail or go online to make your gift to the appeal.

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

We pray for the success of ***Called to be Faithful Stewards, the Diocese of Evansville's 2022 Catholic Parishes Campaign***, so that we may continue to build on the wonderful heritage of our Catholic faith and prepare the way of the future. **We pray to the Lord.**

BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENT

Called to be Faithful Stewards, the Diocese of Evansville's 2022 Catholic Parishes Campaign. "I am grateful for the way you support the mission of the Church by your prayer, engagement and generous contributions. Please be assured that I pray for you at Mass each day and I ask you to pray for me." Bishop Joseph Siegel, Bishop of Evansville. <http://www.evdio.org/impact-report.html>.

Week seven Activity

Monday, October 3 - Sunday, October 9

Activity	When	Who is Responsible	Comments
Pastor reminds parishioners to make pledge	At Mass Saturday, October 8 and Sunday, October 9	Pastor / celebrant	A simple reminder is all that is needed
Pulpit announcement	At Mass Saturday, October 8 and Sunday, October 9	Pastor / Deacon / Reader	See suggested announcement below
Prayers of the Faithful	At Mass Saturday, October 8 and Sunday, October 9	Pastor / Deacon/ Reader	See suggested prayers below
Bulletin announcement	At Mass Saturday, October 8 and Sunday, October 9	Parish Staff	See suggested bulletin announcement below

PULPIT ANNOUNCEMENT

Thank you for your generous response to the ***Called to be Faithful Stewards, the Diocese of Evansville's 2022 Catholic Parishes Campaign***. If you have not yet made your pledge to the appeal, please prayerfully consider doing so this week. We are grateful to you for your past support. Our contributions are the primary financial support of the vital work of the diocese.

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

In gratitude we thank our parishioners for their faithful stewardship and generous support of the Catholic Parishes Campaign. **We pray to the Lord.**

BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENT

Called to be Faithful Stewards, the Diocese of Evansville's 2022 Catholic Parishes Campaign. "Our work would not be possible without the generous gifts made by you to the Catholic Parishes Campaign. I am grateful to you for sharing God's abundance in support of our mission as Church. I want you to know that we are careful stewards of those gifts and never forget where they came from." Bishop Joseph Siegel, Bishop of Evansville.

Week Eight Activity

Monday, October 10 - Sunday, October 16

Activity	When	Who is Responsible	Comments
Pulpit announcement	At Mass Saturday, October 15 and Sunday, October 16	Pastor / Deacon / Reader	See suggested announcement below
Prayers of the Faithful	At Mass Saturday, October 15 and Sunday, October 16	Pastor / Deacon/ Reader	See suggested prayers below
Bulletin announcement	At Mass Saturday, October 15 and Sunday, October 16	Parish Staff	See suggested bulletin announcement below

PULPIT ANNOUNCEMENT

We are given the opportunity to be an important part of the ministries of the Diocese of Evansville through our financial contributions to ***Called to be Faithful Stewards, the Diocese of Evansville's 2022 Catholic Parishes Campaign***. If you have already made your pledge, thank you. If you have not, please prayerfully consider doing so soon.

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

That our participation in the ***Called to be Faithful Stewards, the Diocese of Evansville's 2022 Catholic Parishes Campaign***, puts us in solidarity with those on the margins of society who benefit from our financial gifts to the appeal, **We pray to the Lord.**

BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENT

Called to be Faithful Stewards, the Diocese of Evansville's 2022 Catholic Parishes Campaign Through the Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry, one hundred eight participants from the Diocese of Evansville headed to Indianapolis for the National Catholic Youth Conference, a three-day event filled with catechesis, worship and faith-building. The Diocese also celebrated the vibrant faith of the 52 Saint Maria Goretti Youth Distinction recipients at a Mass and conferral ceremony at St. Benedict Cathedral." <http://www.evdio.org/impact-report.html>. The Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry is supported by our contributions to the Catholic Parishes Campaign.

Week Nine Activity

Monday, October 17 - Sunday, October 23

Activity	When	Who is Responsible	Comments
Pulpit announcement	At Mass Saturday, October 22 and Sunday, October 23	Pastor / Deacon / Reader	See suggested announcement below
Prayers of the Faithful	At Mass Saturday, October 22 and Sunday, October 23	Pastor / Deacon/ Reader	See suggested prayers below
Bulletin announcement	At Mass Saturday, October 22 and Sunday, October 23	Parish Staff	See suggested bulletin announcement below
Request donor report from Renee at Diocese	At Mass Saturday, October 22 and Sunday, October 23	Parish Staff	Report to be used to send reminder letters next week

PULPIT ANNOUNCEMENT

Thank you to everyone in our parish who has made a gift or pledge commitment to ***Called to be Faithful Stewards, the Diocese of Evansville's 2022 Catholic Parishes Campaign***. This is a tangible opportunity for us to help individuals and families through the many charitable programs made possible by the appeal. Every gift makes a difference. If you have already made your pledge, thank you. If you have not, please prayerfully consider doing so today.

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

That we may take the time to reflect, pray and decide how we will share our blessings with our Catholic family through ***Called to be Faithful Stewards, the Diocese of Evansville's 2022 Catholic Parishes Campaign***. **We pray to the Lord.**

BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENT

Called to be Faithful Stewards, the Diocese of Evansville's 2022 Catholic Parishes Campaign "On June 5, 2021, Bishop Siegel ordained Deacon Garrett Braun to the priesthood at Saint Benedict Cathedral. Providentially, this was one of the first celebrations that occurred as pandemic restrictions were being lifted, which allowed for it to be an even greater day for the diocese to come together." <http://www.evdio.org/impact-report.html>. The Office of Worship is supported by our contributions to the Catholic Parishes Campaign.

Week Ten Activity

Monday, October 24 - Sunday, October 30

Activity	When	Who is Responsible	Comments
Pastor Reminder letter	Monday, October 24	Pastor / Parish staff	This letter sent to everyone who has not contributed
Pulpit announcement	At Mass Saturday, October 29 and Sunday, October 30	Pastor / Deacon / Reader	See suggested announcement below
Prayers of the Faithful	At Mass Saturday, October 29 and Sunday, October 30	Pastor / Deacon/ Reader	See suggested prayers below
Bulletin announcement	At Mass Saturday, October 29 and Sunday, October 30	Parish Staff	See suggested bulletin announcement below

PULPIT ANNOUNCEMENT

Thank you to everyone in our parish who has made a gift or pledge commitment to ***Called to be Faithful Stewards, the Diocese of Evansville's 2022 Catholic Parishes Campaign***. Our latest report shows that we have reached XX% of our goal. We recently sent reminder letters to parishioners who have not yet made a pledge. Please prayerfully consider making a pledge today. If you recently made a pledge but received a reminder letter, it's only because it takes a few days to update our information. Thanks for your understanding.

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

That we as members of the Diocese of Evansville may unite in service to the Lord and support the educational, spiritual, pastoral, and charitable works of our diocese through ***Called to be Faithful Stewards, the Diocese of Evansville's 2022 Catholic Parishes Campaign***. **We pray to the Lord.**

BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENT

Called to be Faithful Stewards, the Diocese of Evansville's 2022 Catholic Parishes Campaign "For the second consecutive year, the communications office navigated the difficult times associated with the COVID-19 pandemic to produce The Message on a weekly basis without interruption. The communications staff is extremely grateful for the support it receives annually from across the diocese because it enables publication of a newspaper that remains community focused for the collective Catholic family across our 12 counties." <http://www.evdio.org/impact-report.html>. The Office of Communications is supported by our contributions to the Catholic Parishes Campaign.

Week Eleven Activity

Monday, October 31 - Sunday, November 6

Activity	When	Who is Responsible	Comments
Pulpit announcement	At Mass Saturday, November 5 and Sunday, November 6	Pastor / Deacon / Reader	See suggested announcement below
Prayers of the Faithful	At Mass Saturday, November 5 and Sunday, November 6	Pastor / Deacon/ Reader	See suggested prayers below
Bulletin announcement	At Mass Saturday, November 5 and Sunday, November 6	Parish Staff	See suggested bulletin announcement below

PULPIT ANNOUNCEMENT

If you have not yet made your contribution to ***Called to be Faithful Stewards, the Diocese of Evansville's 2022 Catholic Parishes Campaign***, we ask that you take a few moments in the days ahead to consider prayerfully your gift decision. Each contribution ensures that the ministries, programs, and services of the Church remain strong throughout the Diocese of Evansville. As we near the completion of the appeal, we thank those who have given, and encourage those who haven't to join us in this important endeavor.

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

For the success of ***Called to be Faithful Stewards, the Diocese of Evansville's 2022 Catholic Parishes Campaign***, that the people of our parish and throughout the diocese will respond generously to the call to help support the many ministries and services made possible by the appeal. **We pray to the Lord.**

BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENT

Called to be Faithful Stewards, the Diocese of Evansville's 2022 Catholic Parishes Campaign "The Office of Stewardship brought the annual Brute' Society awards back to an in-person celebration in 2021. We inducted 130 new members into the society, which recognizes parishioners who lead exemplary lives of stewardship. Nominees are selected by each parish and are presented with a medal and certificate of appreciation at a special Mass each fall. More than 500 people attended the Mass at St. Benedict Cathedral in 2021." <http://www.evdio.org/impact-report.html>. The Office of Stewardship is supported by our contributions to the Catholic Parishes Campaign.

LETTERS

Letters to Parishioners

Following is a letter I have composed for you. You can use this letter or one of your own. Or, you can use this one as a template and edit it to make it your own.

If you have the ability to segment your letters, it will help you meet your Catholic Parishes Campaign goal.

Segmentation involves separating groups based on common characteristics. In this case, we are segmenting by just three groups – those who gave last year (LBYNT); those who gave some year but not this year (SYBNT); and those who have never made a gift (NEVER EVERS).

If your software allows it, you can create lists of donors who fit in these categories, and then insert the appropriate cell contents where variables are shown. Each letter is the same except for the paragraph that begins with “We are grateful....”

Like last year, we are suggesting a longer letter. For many years we have been under the assumption that a one-page letter is best. Well, we were wrong. Research has shown that the best fundraising letters are three- or four-pages long. These letters are personal and testimonial in nature, have the donors name in them in several places, and the PS is perhaps the most important piece of the letter. Please consider that information if you choose to write your own or modify the letter that follows.

If you do not segment your letters, just use the “No Segmentation” option.

PASTOR LETTER TO PARISHIONERS

Letters should be in the mail no later than Monday, September 26

ON PARISH LETTERHEAD

Date
Name
Address
City, State Zip

Dear [salutation],

I must say, there are days I wonder if I am reaching people.

I send out emails and the recipients don't respond. I make phone calls and when the call is connected, instead of "hello" I hear *"I'm sorry I can't take your call right now...."* After leaving a message asking them to call back, I never hear from them.

Are they not responding because they are busy? Could be. It seems everyone is busy these days. *Do they just forget to return the message?* That could be, too. Returning messages just doesn't seem all that important anymore. *Did I say or do something that offended them?*

It might be all those things.

It's different when I talk to people after Mass. Everyone who stops to talk is very friendly and seems genuinely glad to see me and to talk to me. God knows I love talking to parishioners.

Sometimes when I am greeting people after Mass, I will see someone walk quickly past me, as though they are intentionally avoiding even the possibility of talking to me. Again, I ask myself, *is it me?*

There is a problem with any answer I might come up with, though. It doesn't include any input from the person who is not responding to my email, not answering the phone or walking past me after Mass.

But I have a pretty good idea what it might be.

I don't know what burden's people are silently bearing. But the weights of those burdens might be crushing them, making a short conversation with me the last thing they want to do. It might be trouble with money, an argument with a spouse, a friend's illness or death – *there are thousands of things that could cause someone to walk on by.*

If we only knew burdens people were carrying, we would do all we could to help them.

“Father,” you might ask, “There are many people who fit the picture you have painted. I am one person. What can I do?”

Shine!

When Jesus finished preaching the Beatitudes, he then told the crowd of 5,000:

“You are the light of the world. A city set on a mountain cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and then put it under a bushel basket; it is set on a lampstand, where it gives light to all in the house. Just so, your light must shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly Father.” Mt. 5: 14-16

He didn’t say you *could* be the light of the world – he said you *are* the light of the world. Then he told us we are not to hide the light, but that we *must* “shine before others...”

Bringing the light of Christ to those around us is the real mission of the Church, isn’t it?

One very important way we as Church do this is to support ***Called to be Faithful Stewards; the Diocese of Evansville’s Catholic Parishes Campaign.***

There are more than 20 different and distinct ministries and offices that are funded by our gifts to this annual appeal.

- ✓ Seminarian Education
- ✓ Tribunal
- ✓ Catholic Charities
- ✓ Youth and Young Adult Ministries
- ✓ Family and Life
- ✓ Liturgy
- ✓ Communications / *The Message*
- ✓ Catholic School Administration
- ✓ Catechesis
- ✓ Stewardship
- ✓ Chancery
- ✓ Vocations

-----***INSERT VARIABLE PARAGRAPH HERE***-----

As faithful stewards, we know that all we have comes from God and that we are to return those gifts with increase. Making a gift to ***Called to be Faithful Stewards; the Diocese of Evansville's Catholic Parishes Campaign*** is a central way in which we can support the work of the diocese, and by doing so, be the light Christ calls us to be.

(name) I don't believe people don't respond to my emails because of some fault I have. Rather, there is darkness in their lives, and through my gift to ***Called to be Faithful Stewards; the Diocese of Evansville's Catholic Parishes Campaign***, I am bringing that light – the light of Christ himself - and dispelling the darkness.

And today, I am inviting you to join me.

I hope you will see my invitation to support this annual appeal as an ***opportunity***, not an obligation – a chance to deepen ***your own relationship with Christ***, to give gratitude for God's many blessings, and to **bring Christ's light into our world.**

Thank you so very much for your time and prayerful consideration.

In Christ,

Signature

Father xxx

Pastor

P.S. Just as each one of us needs and relies on the Church, the Church needs and relies on us. Please, join us as we give the gift of Christ today!

VARIABLE PARAGRAPHS

Those who gave last year (LYBNT)

We are grateful to you for the gift you made last year of \$xxx, joining thousands of other Catholics who contributed to ***Called to be Faithful Stewards***. Your gift today will help shine the light of Christ in our diocese.

Those who have given in the past but not last year (SYBNT)

We are grateful to you for the gifts you have made in the past, joining thousands of other Catholics who contributed to ***Called to be Faithful Stewards***. Your gift today will help shine the light of Christ in our diocese.

Those who have never given (Never Evers)

Today we are asking you to join the thousands of Catholics who have given to ***Called to be Faithful Stewards*** over the years. If you've never given before, please consider a small monthly gift of \$20, or even \$10. A small amount will help shine the light of Christ in our diocese.

NO SEGMENTATION

Today we are asking you to join the thousands of Catholics who have given to ***Called to be Faithful Stewards*** over the years. A gift of \$25, \$50, or \$100 each month will help shine the light of Christ in our diocese.

LETTERS TO LEADERSHIP

Members of your parish who belong to the Parish Council, Finance Council, Stewardship Committee, St. Vincent de Paul committee, readers, cantors, or any other leadership position in the parish can show through their example the importance of making a contribution to the Catholic Parishes Campaign. You can call on them to step into their leadership role and be one of the first to support the appeal.

While the following letter can be sent on parish letterhead, consider using a personalized note card with a familiar (as opposed to formal) greeting and signature. A hand-written note is also a powerful statement.

Dear (first name)

Let me begin this note by telling you how grateful I am to you for your willingness to serve our parish as a member of (finance council, parish council, etc.) It takes someone with great dedication and love of God to serve the Church in this way. These positions are seldom ones of glamour or fame, and more often consist of hearing complaints. Never forget that I appreciate your work tremendously and pray for you often. Your willingness to serve and offer your talents to the Church help make our work possible and successful.

You will soon receive a letter from me asking for your support of ***Called to be Faithful Stewards; the Diocese of Evansville's Catholic Parishes Campaign.***

This annual appeal funds the vital ministries and offices of the diocese. Our parish works hand-in-hand with the diocese to bring the Good News to the faithful. We have been given a goal to raise \$XXX this year, which, while challenging, is certainly within our reach.

Today I am asking you for your leadership in supporting the appeal by making a gift of your own. I am also asking you to show your support of the appeal to other parishioners by telling them of the good works of the diocese and how important it is to our parish to make a gift to the appeal.

I would not ask you to do something I would not do myself, so I have already made my gift to the Catholic Parishes Campaign this year. Please prayerfully consider joining me in that action of faith and love towards the Church.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor

FOLLOW-UP LETTER

Send this letter Monday, October 18.

Dear _____,

Several weeks ago, we wrote to you asking you to consider making a gift to the ***Called to be Faithful Stewards; the Diocese of Evansville's Catholic Parishes Campaign***. Parishioner's gifts to this annual appeal provide funding for the pastoral and ministerial works of the diocese in every parish in southwestern Indiana.

I am writing to you because we have not received a pledge card from you, and it is our sincere hope that you will consider making a gift to the appeal today.

Contributing to ***Called to be Faithful Stewards; the Diocese of Evansville's Catholic Parishes Campaign*** is one way in which we share the abundance of God's gifts to us. The gifts made to this appeal are the primary financial support for ministries such as lifelong catechesis, vocations, youth and young adult ministry, Catholic Charities, and many, many more.

Both the people leading these ministries and the beneficiaries of these ministries are our neighbors and friends, Catholics who share the love of Jesus and the love of Church. Our diocese brings together our people in faith.

A gift today of \$50 or \$100 would go a long way in supporting these vital ministries of the Diocese of Evansville.

You can make your gift by using the card found with this letter. You can either mail it back in the envelope provided, or drop it into the collection basket at Mass. You can also make a secure contribution at www.evdio.org.

Gifts of securities, life insurance, or IRAs can have significant tax benefits to the donor, and we encourage their use in contributing to the appeal.

If you have already made a gift to this year's appeal, we thank you. If you have not, we ask you to prayerfully consider doing so today.

All that we have comes from God. He made us in his likeness, he cannot be outdone in his generosity, and He will always provide.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor

PS – Thank you for your prayerful consideration to join your brothers and sisters in Christ in contributing the Catholic Parishes Campaign. Even if you are unable to make a gift this year, please pray for the success of the appeal and the ministries supported by the generous gifts of our parishioners.

THANK YOU LETTER

Contact Renee in the diocesan Finance Office to get a list of those who have made a pledge or donation so you can send a thank you letter. These letters should go out shortly after receiving the gift.

Consider sending a holy card along with this. A favorite is St. Ignatius of Loyola with the suscipe on the back. It is a wonderful stewardship prayer.

Dear :

I want to thank you for your recent contribution to the ***Called to be Faithful Stewards; the Diocese of Evansville's Catholic Parishes Campaign.***

The generous nature of the parishioners of (PARISH) exemplifies that generosity. Even more so, your gift shows how you have embraced the call to stewardship that God commands of us all.

Our stewardship is ultimately rooted in our knowledge that we have been freed from the slavery of sin through the gift of God's Firstborn Son, Jesus Christ. Ours is a response of gratitude to the Gift that has already been given, namely that of Jesus Christ, the gift of Salvation, the gift of the Church, the gift of the Sacraments, the gift of Faith!

Jesus tells us: "Give and gifts will be given to you; a good measure, packed together, shaken down, and overflowing, will be poured into your lap. For the measure with which you measure will in return be measured out to you." (Luke 6:38)

Stewardship not only calls us to make a response to God's gifts, but more importantly, to make a leap in faith in sharing our blessings in a way that places us, once again, in a stance of faith and trust before God, confident that he will continue to give us all that we need. In a real sense, our stewardship allows room in our hearts for God to continue to grow our Faith.

Thank you, again, for taking that leap in faith. Always know of my continued prayers for you and for all the parishioners of (PARISH) .

Yours in Christ,

Pastor

PRESENTATIONS / TESTIMONIALS

During presentation weekend, it can be very effective to have a parishioner offer his/her take on why they support the appeal, and why other parishioners can feel good supporting it as well.

During commitment weekend, the pastor should be making the presentation about how to make a donation, going through the mechanics of filling out a pledge card and referring to his letter to parishioners and other material provided by the diocese. Along with this, the pastor should succinctly speak to why it is important to make a contribution to the appeal.

The pastor, as shepherd of the parish, should make this presentation. Do not hand this off to the parochial vicar, business manager, or other staff member or volunteer. You need to be front-and-center as leader and guide so that others will follow. If you do not set the example, it will be very difficult to reach your goals.

Following are some ideas to help in formulating your presentations.

The most effective presentations are personal and emotion-based. Telling real life stories about encounters with Christ that came about through ministries supported by CPC are riveting. People will respond to those stories in far greater numbers than an accounting-like presentation, or one that attempts to garner contributions through the use of guilt.

One thing to avoid at all costs is the temptation to say "Our goal is \$xxx. We have xxx (number of) families. If each family gives \$xxx, we will reach our goal." While appearing to be a just (and easy) solution, it is neither. It is not just because for those families with greater resources, they can take care of their contribution with a gift that is far smaller than their ability. For those who have few resources, it is an insurmountable amount that likely leads to shame and frustration, ultimately causing them to make no gift at all and giving them no ownership in the affairs of the Church. ***Don't do that.***

Lay Testimonial

Basics

Your talk should last about 7 minutes. It can be either during the time of the homily or after communion. Both times work, and your pastor will let you know which is better for your parish. Remember that it is not a testimony of your experience and not a homily. Stay focused on your subject. Don't tell jokes. Don't cite statistics. Don't be political. Prepare your talk well in advance and practice it many times so as to be very comfortable with it. Try not to read from your text, but to become so familiar with what you will say that you can say it without looking at it. Look at your audience, not your notes.

Most importantly, pray while you prepare your talk, pray before you give your talk, pray after you give your talk.

Your Witness:

Your experience of the value and purpose of ***Called to be Faithful Stewards*** lends a great perspective to others of the importance of these ministries. What encounter with Jesus have you had that was

supported by the works of the Church? Which ministry was most relevant to this encounter? Marriage and family, youth ministry, vocations, worship, Catholic Charities?

- Name & family members, years in the parish, *"I want to share with you my encounter with Jesus Christ and how that was brought about through the ministries of the Church that are supported by the Catholic Parishes Campaign."*
- Share YOUR experience, not the experience of a group.
- How has the experience deepened your relationship with Jesus?
- How do you feel about supporting the Catholic Parishes Campaign given that your experience was supported by diocesan ministries?
- Why should others consider supporting the appeal?
- "Our support is critical to the success of these ministries!"
- "Please join my family and I in making a gift to ***Called to be Faithful Stewards***"
- Thank parishioners for their time and consideration.

IDEAS FOR PASTOR'S IN-PEW PRESENTATION

This weekend, in all parishes throughout our diocese, Catholics are being given an opportunity to support the works of the Church by making a financial pledge to ***Called to be Faithful Stewards; the Diocese of Evansville's Catholic Parishes Campaign***. The diocese, which is our local Church is comprised of 45 parishes serving 70,000 of the faithful in southwest Indiana.

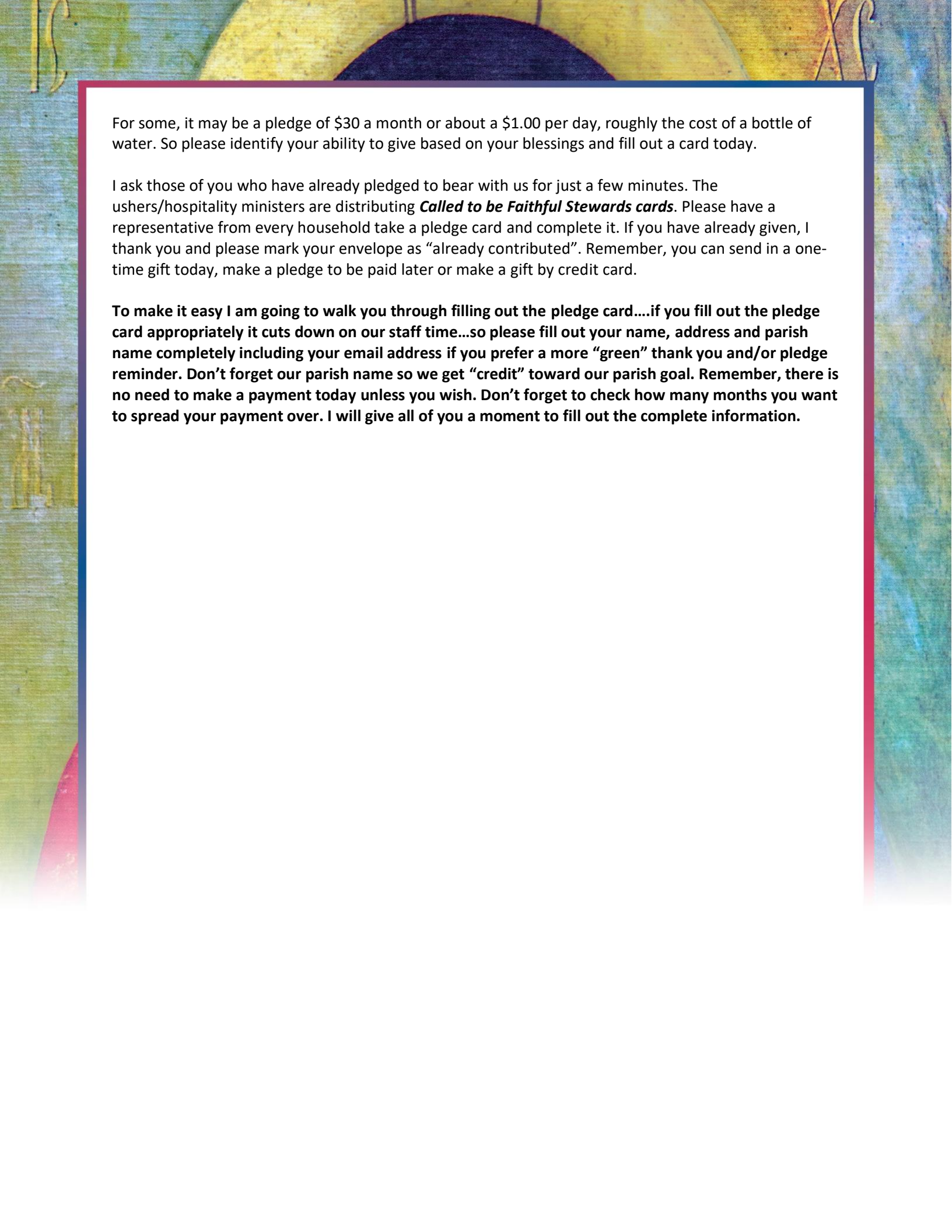
Every Catholic family is asked to participate in ***Called to be Faithful Stewards*** as one sign of our unity in Christ. ***Called to be Faithful Stewards*** provides support to the work done in our parish and in all the parishes of the diocese.

For many years ***Called to be Faithful Stewards*** has supported parishes in need, educated current and future generations in our faith, and helped form men now serving as pastors and permanent deacons. As we continue to grow, ***Called to be Faithful Stewards*** 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 Southwest Indiana.

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.

Called to be Faithful Stewards 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 or about a \$1.00 per day, roughly the cost of a bottle of water. So please identify your ability to give based on your blessings and fill out a card today.

I ask those of you who have already pledged to bear with us for just a few minutes. The ushers/hospitality ministers are distributing ***Called to be Faithful Stewards cards***. Please have a representative from every household take a pledge card and complete it. If you have already given, I thank you and please mark your 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 pledge card....if you fill out the pledge card 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.

Date	Sunday	1st Reading	Psalm	2nd Reading	Gospel
9/25/2021	26 th Sunday Ordinary Time	Am 6:1a, 4-7	Ps 146:7, 8-9, 9-10	1 Tm 6:11-16	Lk 16:19-31
9/26/2021	26 th Sunday of Ordinary Time	EZ 18:25-28	PS 25:4-5, 8-9, 10, 14	PHIL 2:1-11 OR 2:1-5	MT 21:28-32

September 25 & 26

Twenty-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Lectionary: 138

Reading 1

Am 6:1a, 4-7

Thus says the LORD the God of hosts:
Woe to the complacent in Zion!
Lying upon beds of ivory,
stretched comfortably on their couches,
they eat lambs taken from the flock,
and calves from the stall!
Improvising to the music of the harp,
like David, they devise their own accompaniment.
They drink wine from bowls
and anoint themselves with the best oils;
yet they are not made ill by the collapse of Joseph!
Therefore, now they shall be the first to go into exile,
and their wanton revelry shall be done away with.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 146:7, 8-9, 9-10

R. (1b) Praise the Lord, my soul!

or:

R. Alleluia.

Blessed he who keeps faith forever,
secures justice for the oppressed,
gives food to the hungry.

The LORD sets captives free.

R. Praise the Lord, my soul!

or:

R. Alleluia.

The LORD gives sight to the blind;
the LORD raises up those who were bowed down.

The LORD loves the just;
the LORD protects strangers.

R. Praise the Lord, my soul!

or:

R. Alleluia.

The fatherless and the widow he sustains,
but the way of the wicked he thwarts.

The LORD shall reign forever;
your God, O Zion, through all generations. Alleluia.

R. Praise the Lord, my soul!

or:

R. Alleluia.

Reading 2

1 Tm 6:11-16

But you, man of God, pursue righteousness,
devotion, faith, love, patience, and gentleness.
Compete well for the faith.

Lay hold of eternal life, to which you were called
when you made the noble confession in the presence of many witnesses.
I charge you before God, who gives life to all things,
and before Christ Jesus,
who gave testimony under Pontius Pilate for the noble confession,

to keep the commandment without stain or reproach
until the appearance of our Lord Jesus Christ
that the blessed and only ruler
will make manifest at the proper time,
the King of kings and Lord of lords,
who alone has immortality, who dwells in unapproachable light,
and whom no human being has seen or can see.
To him be honor and eternal power. Amen.

Alleluia

Cf. 2 Cor 8:9

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Though our Lord Jesus Christ was rich, he became poor,
so that by his poverty you might become rich.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel

Lk 16:19-31

Jesus said to the Pharisees:

"There was a rich man who dressed in purple garments and fine linen
and dined sumptuously each day.

And lying at his door was a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores,
who would gladly have eaten his fill of the scraps
that fell from the rich man's table.

Dogs even used to come and lick his sores.

When the poor man died,

he was carried away by angels to the bosom of Abraham.

The rich man also died and was buried,

and from the netherworld, where he was in torment,

he raised his eyes and saw Abraham far off

and Lazarus at his side.

And he cried out, 'Father Abraham, have pity on me.

Send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue,
for I am suffering torment in these flames.'

Abraham replied,

'My child, remember that you received
what was good during your lifetime

while Lazarus likewise received what was bad;
but now he is comforted here, whereas you are tormented.
Moreover, between us and you a great chasm is established
to prevent anyone from crossing who might wish to go
from our side to yours or from your side to ours.'
He said, 'Then I beg you, father,
send him to my father's house, for I have five brothers,
so that he may warn them,
lest they too come to this place of torment.'
But Abraham replied, 'They have Moses and the prophets.
Let them listen to them.'
He said, 'Oh no, father Abraham,
but if someone from the dead goes to them, they will repent.'
Then Abraham said, 'If they will not listen to Moses and the prophets,
neither will they be persuaded if someone should rise from the dead.'"

October 1&2

Twenty-seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

Lectionary: 141

Reading 1

Hab 1:2-3; 2:2-4

How long, O LORD? I cry for help
but you do not listen!
I cry out to you, "Violence!"
but you do not intervene.
Why do you let me see ruin;
why must I look at misery?
Destruction and violence are before me;
there is strife, and clamorous discord.
Then the LORD answered me and said:
Write down the vision clearly upon the tablets,
so that one can read it readily.

For the vision still has its time,
presses on to fulfillment, and will not disappoint;
if it delays, wait for it,
it will surely come, it will not be late.
The rash one has no integrity;
but the just one, because of his faith, shall live.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9

R. (8) If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.

Come, let us sing joyfully to the LORD;

let us acclaim the Rock of our salvation.

Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving;

let us joyfully sing psalms to him.

R. If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.

Come, let us bow down in worship;

let us kneel before the LORD who made us.

For he is our God,

and we are the people he shepherds, the flock he guides.

R. If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.

Oh, that today you would hear his voice:

"Harden not your hearts as at Meribah,

as in the day of Massah in the desert,

Where your fathers tempted me;

they tested me though they had seen my works."

R. If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.

Reading 2

2 Tm 1:6-8, 13-14

Beloved:

I remind you, to stir into flame

the gift of God that you have through the imposition of my hands.

For God did not give us a spirit of cowardice

but rather of power and love and self-control.

So do not be ashamed of your testimony to our Lord,

nor of me, a prisoner for his sake;

but bear your share of hardship for the gospel

with the strength that comes from God.

Take as your norm the sound words that you heard from me,
in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus.

Guard this rich trust with the help of the Holy Spirit
that dwells within us.

Alleluia

1 Pt 1:25

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

The word of the Lord remains forever.

This is the word that has been proclaimed to you.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel

Lk 17:5-10

The apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith."

The Lord replied,

"If you have faith the size of a mustard seed,

you would say to this mulberry tree,

'Be uprooted and planted in the sea,' and it would obey you.

"Who among you would say to your servant

who has just come in from plowing or tending sheep in the field,

'Come here immediately and take your place at table'?

Would he not rather say to him,

'Prepare something for me to eat.

Put on your apron and wait on me while I eat and drink.

You may eat and drink when I am finished'?

Is he grateful to that servant because he did what was commanded?

So should it be with you.

When you have done all you have been commanded,

say, 'We are unprofitable servants;

we have done what we were obliged to do.'"

Outside Help

We have relationships with several key, trusted partners who can help you in your efforts with the Catholic Parishes Campaign.

In order to make your messaging effective, you may need some assistance using new resources to reach a scattered audience. These are organizations with whom I have worked in the past and whose advice and assistance I value a great deal.

Note that these are suggestions, not requirements. If and when you connect with the organizations listed here for assistance, you will be responsible for contracting and payment. I would be happy to be a part of the conversation you have with the vendor, but my role in this is to point you in the direction of a partner who you can count on.

Direct Mail

**TurnKey Direct Marketing, Inc. Contact: Tom Struthers, CEO. Tom@turnkeydirect.com.
Website: <http://turnkeydirect.net/> phone 888-301-3383**

Tom and his wife Kari have been doing this work for many, many years. Their client list includes a host of dioceses, archdioceses, parishes, and religious orders. They know this part of the business inside and out. They are very easy to work with and their pricing is reasonable. The results of the work they did for me in the past have been outstanding.

Digital Marketing and Social Media Messaging

**Prenger Solutions Group, Inc. Contact: Nic Prenger, CEO Nic@prengersolutions.com.
Website: <https://prengersolutions.com/> Phone 844.333.5252**

Nic Prenger is a very bright man who started this firm to solve problems in areas that were not being addressed by others, namely digital marketing and engagement. PSG can help you with your digital parishioner engagement in ways unavailable to most parishes without a sophisticated social media / digital expert on staff. Nic leads a team of experts who provide digital fundraising solutions to Catholic dioceses, schools and parishes, including several in the Diocese of Evansville. Clients choose to partner with PSG in order to design and implement next-generation fundraising programs that include online giving, email marketing, donor software, data analytics, social media, website design and landing page optimization.

Graphic Design

**By Chance Graphics. Contact Mary Bolin, Owner / Designer. mebbolin@psci.net
<https://bychancegraphics.com/>**

Mary has done work for me in the Office of Stewardship and for the Catholic Foundation of Southwest Indiana, who referred her to me. Over the past few months I have discovered that she is creative, hard-working, patient, talented, and dedicated to getting work done on-time and under-budget. She spent many years honing her craft at Abbey Press, the publishing arm of St. Meinrad, before its closure a few years ago. Mary can help you put your segmented letters

together as well as design other materials for you for CPC or for your parish needs. She is based in Tell City. I highly recommend her.

Commercial Printing

Greenwell Chisholm Printing. Contact: Scott Nalley scott@gc1919.com Website <https://gc1919.com/>. Phone (270) 684-3267.

Greenwell Chisholm, and Scott in particular, came highly recommended by Mary Bolin at By Chance Graphics. Scott and Mary worked together for many years while she was at St. Meinrad. Scott has many years of experience in commercial printing. He has not shied away from anything I have asked him to do, and he is very responsive to my requests. Pricing is very reasonable.

Feel free to work with these individuals or not. The choice is completely up to you. You may have other vendors whom you trust and have worked with in the past, and I would encourage you to continue and build up those relationships. The recommendations I have shared with you are based upon my experience with them.

I would be happy to make introductions and get you started with any of these fine people. Please contact me directly so that I can get things set up for you.

Gratitude

On behalf of all those who work to grow the Kingdom of God in the Local Church, thank you for your work and dedication to making the Diocese of Evansville Catholic Parishes Campaign successful.

This campaign could not be done without you.

Thank you. Thank you. Thank you.

ENDIX

Helpful Quotes

Asking people for money is giving them the opportunity to put their resources at the disposal of the Kingdom. To raise funds is to offer people the chance to invest what they have in the work of God. Whether they have much or little is not as important as making their money available to God. When Jesus fed five thousand people with only five loaves of bread and two fish, he was showing us how God's love can multiply the effects of our generosity. God's Kingdom is the place of abundance where every generous act overflows its original bounds and becomes part of the unbounded grace of God at work in the World. (Henri J.M Nouwen, The Spirituality of Fundraising)

The fifth precept ("You shall help to provide for the needs of the Church") means that the faithful are obliged to assist with the material needs of the Church, each according to his own ability. The faithful also have the duty of providing for the material needs of the Church, each according to his abilities. (Catechism of the Catholic Church, 2043.)

The Christian faithful are obliged to assist with the needs of the Church so that the Church has what is necessary for divine worship, for the works of the apostolate and of charity, and for the decent support of ministers. (Can. 222 §1.)

The Church's deepest nature is expressed in her three-fold responsibility: of proclaiming the word of God, celebrating the sacraments, and exercising the ministry of charity. These duties presuppose each other and are inseparable. Charity is not a kind of welfare activity which could equally well be left to others, but is part of her nature, an indispensable expression of her very being. (Pope Benedict XVI APOSTOLIC LETTER ISSUED 'MOTU PROPRIO' OF THE SUPREME PONTIFF BENEDICT XVI ON THE SERVICE OF CHARITY)

According to the teaching of the Gospel, we are not owners but rather administrators of the goods we possess; these, then are not to be considered as our exclusive possession, but means through which the Lord calls each of us to act as a steward of His providence for our neighbor. Pope Benedict XVI, Message for Lent 2008

"Man should not consider his material possession his own, but as common to all, so as to share them without hesitation when others are in need." St. Thomas Aquinas

Find out how much God has given you and from it take what you need; the remainder is needed by others. St. Augustine

Cathedraticum = Tax or Free-will Offering

Let's visit the idea of taxes in the Church, in particular the amount of financial support required by the diocese from the parish. This is called a cathedraticum. The cathedraticum is used to build the kingdom of God.

Each year the Diocese of Evansville (and pretty much every Arch/Diocese in the US) holds an appeal to ask for financial support from parishioners across the Arch/Diocese.

Canon 222 tells us that the members of the Church are obligated to "assist with the needs of the Church...." Canon 1263 tells us that the "After the diocesan bishop has heard the finance council and the presbyteral council, he has the right to impose a moderate tax for the needs of the diocese upon public juridic persons subject to his governance; this tax is to be proportionate to their income."

So the Church recognizes the reality that a certain amount of financial support by the faithful is necessary. In addition, the Church gives the bishop the right to tax parishes to cover the costs of running a diocese.

There are people who will look at this situation through the lens of the Internal Revenue Service and complain about the imposition of a tax by the bishop. This is a natural comparison but not at all fair to what the bishop is requesting.

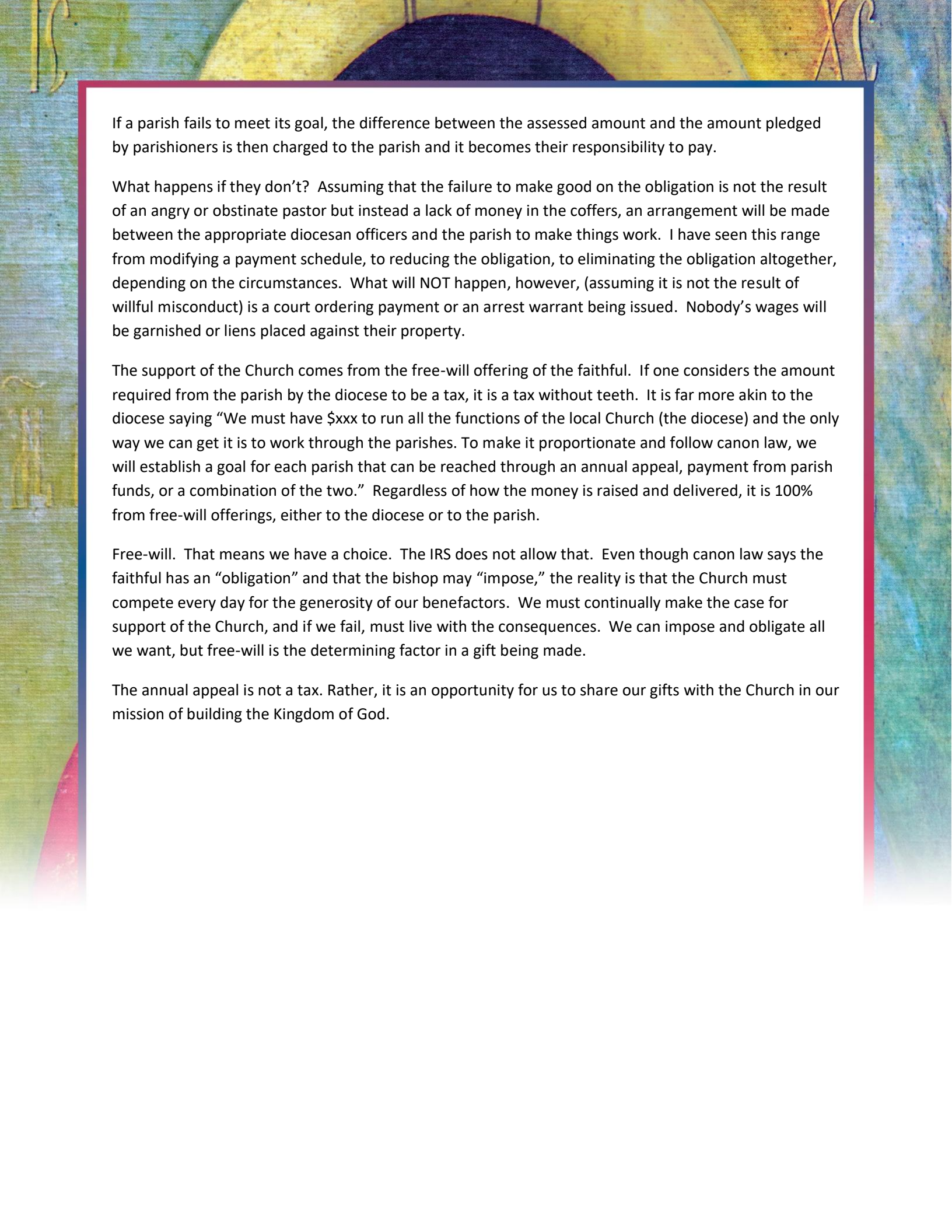
When Congress imposes a tax, it is the duty of the IRS to enforce it. That means that every individual who has some form of income is obliged, under penalty of law, to pay the amount assessed against his or her income. To make sure the government is getting the required amount, we have to substantiate our income with W and 10 forms – 1099, W-9, etc. – that have to be sent into the IRS along with our 1040 tax form.

On the other hand, try to remember the last time you filed a personal financial statement with your parish. Go ahead. I will wait.

(Jeopardy theme playing)

Time's up. Can't remember? You can't because the answer is NEVER. The amount of support parishioners offer to their parish, and their diocese, is an amount chosen by them through prayer. If you make \$1 million dollars a year and give \$1,000 to your parish, nobody is going to send a letter to you demanding greater payment, threaten expulsion from the faith, or turn you over to the cathedraticum police.

There are some additional fundamental differences between IRS taxes and Church "taxes" as well. With the annual appeal, the diocese sets an overall goal and then assesses an amount for each parish's share of the goal. In our case, that goal is based on the number of donors in each parish who gave \$50 or more to the diocese in the last year. That goal is a proportionate share of the overall diocesan budget, based on the number of people in the parish and their ability to pay, just like canon 1263 prescribes.



If a parish fails to meet its goal, the difference between the assessed amount and the amount pledged by parishioners is then charged to the parish and it becomes their responsibility to pay.

What happens if they don't? Assuming that the failure to make good on the obligation is not the result of an angry or obstinate pastor but instead a lack of money in the coffers, an arrangement will be made between the appropriate diocesan officers and the parish to make things work. I have seen this range from modifying a payment schedule, to reducing the obligation, to eliminating the obligation altogether, depending on the circumstances. What will NOT happen, however, (assuming it is not the result of willful misconduct) is a court ordering payment or an arrest warrant being issued. Nobody's wages will be garnished or liens placed against their property.

The support of the Church comes from the free-will offering of the faithful. If one considers the amount required from the parish by the diocese to be a tax, it is a tax without teeth. It is far more akin to the diocese saying "We must have \$xxx to run all the functions of the local Church (the diocese) and the only way we can get it is to work through the parishes. To make it proportionate and follow canon law, we will establish a goal for each parish that can be reached through an annual appeal, payment from parish funds, or a combination of the two." Regardless of how the money is raised and delivered, it is 100% from free-will offerings, either to the diocese or to the parish.

Free-will. That means we have a choice. The IRS does not allow that. Even though canon law says the faithful has an "obligation" and that the bishop may "impose," the reality is that the Church must compete every day for the generosity of our benefactors. We must continually make the case for support of the Church, and if we fail, must live with the consequences. We can impose and obligate all we want, but free-will is the determining factor in a gift being made.

The annual appeal is not a tax. Rather, it is an opportunity for us to share our gifts with the Church in our mission of building the Kingdom of God.



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