

Witness Talk Sample Message

Good Morning / Afternoon / Evening:

Thank you for letting me take just a few moments of your time to share some thoughts with you on the importance - and impact - of making a gift to the 2020 Catholic Appeal.

I am \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and I have been a parishioner at \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Parish for \_\_\_\_ years. Being a Catholic and a member of this parish community has enriched my life, and the life of my family. This is one of many reasons why I support the Catholic Appeal.

And as you may know, the Appeal is the **annual** fund that **provides nearly half of the funding for 51 critical ministries supporting our parishes, our Catholic schools and the many efforts helping those who turn to our Church for assistance.**

**On a local level,** the work of the Appeal provides guidance, support and training for many people working in our parishes, including:

* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, our religious education director(s) here at \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_parish and more than 280 directors in other parishes.
* It supports \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ here at our parish and many more Pastoral Assistants or Associates helping to enrich parish life across our Church.
* And the Appeal provides guidance and training for Deacon(s) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and more than 150 other Deacons.

**In our communities** the work of the Appeal helps support the students, faculty and leaders of our Catholic schools. It also provides programs for those who may need our help. Let me share just a few examples:

* The Appeal supports campus ministry programs at more than 20 colleges in the Boston area. These students are invited to participate in programs that foster the growth of their Catholic faith at a time that can be very challenging for young adults. The graduates of these programs are becoming Catholic leaders in our communities and in our parishes.
* The Appeal supports our Catholic chaplains as they work with folks from all walks of life facing difficult life challenges in our hospitals and in our prisons.
* And the Appeal supports our Pregnancy Help Centers that help 100 women each month. These centers receive 1,800 requests for help each year.

51 ministries, 283 parishes, and 110 Catholic schools across 144 communities. This is Our Church. When you support the Catholic Appeal, you support this life-changing work – work that cannot be done with *you.* And what we can do together far outweighs what any one of us could do alone.

I ask you to please review the stories in today’s bulletin insert and watch this short video. Msgr / Father ­­­­­­­­­­­\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ will share/has shared his own thoughts with you on the importance of this work, and I invite you to join me in supporting the Appeal. When we support the Appeal, we live our faith, together, and make a real difference in our parish and in our communities.

On behalf of Cardinal Seán and Msgr/Father ­\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ I thank you so much for your time and consideration of this important request.