**COMMITMENT WEEKEND (March 14-15)**

**In-Pew Request**

The In-Pew Request is very important to the success of your parish Appeal. Up to this point, parishioners have heard about the Catholic Appeal and why it is so very important to support it. Some may have already made a pledge by mail. Now is the time to ask the rest of your parishioners for their financial support.

***Even if your parish conducted an In-Pew Request in 2019, it is important to launch your 2020 Catholic Appeal with the In-Pew Request again.*** Many parishioners see the pastor’s endorsement as crucial to their support and are more likely to renew when asked directly.

If your parish has not tried this method, study it carefully and implement it this year.

**The reasons to conduct the In-Pew Request are:**

* **It seeks an intentional gift.** The In-Pew Request helps to ensure a moment when the ministries run by the Archdiocese can be recognized and supported by parishioners.
* **It reaches more people than mailings alone.** While the response rate on Catholic Appeal mailings is excellent, a letter alone is rarely sufficient to ensure the success of the Appeal.
* **It helps keep records updated.** Parishes making an In-Pew Request often identify new parishioners who are not registered at the time of the Appeal.
* **It helps ensure early success.** Most parishes that implement the In-Pew Request reach their assessment within a few weeks of Commitment Weekend, meaning a shorter and more successful Appeal.

**IN-PEW REQUEST SAMPLE SCRIPT**

**Please take a few minutes to review, add your own voice, and practice.** This should feel like a request to a friend, not a directive. Use language and a tone that works for your parish. **A Word document version of this script is available on the website.**

**Please be sure to give the process time.** Slow down and allow your parishioners time to complete the form. Many parishioners will need time to write out their check or credit card information.

***NOTE: Playing soft background music through the process sets a relaxed and comfortable tone.***

**SAMPLE SCRIPT:**

In recent weeks, we have heard about the Catholic Appeal and how it supports the ministries serving our parishes, Catholic schools, and communities around the Archdiocese. Your generous gifts to the Catholic Appeal are allocated to many of these ministries and initiatives that are making a real difference, strengthening the work of the Church for thousands in our Archdiocese.

Some examples are, that 37% of the Archdiocese budget is supporting parish ministry work such as pastoral planning and training for faith formation for youth and adults, parish nurses and pastoral associates and providing parish services support. The Vocations and Clergy Support portion of the budget is 12%. They are encouraging and fostering vocations to the priesthood, permanent diaconate and religious life and more; and 6% of the budget is supporting families with programs within the Pro-Life Office, Project Rachel and Family Life Office. All of this is very important work.

Today we want to take the next few minutes to invite everyone to prayerfully consider supporting the 2020 Catholic Appeal. **If you have already given through the Cardinal’s letter or on-line, Thank you! Your participation today is still important. It demonstrates a commitment as a parish to support the larger work of our church.**

At this time our volunteers are walking around to distribute pledge envelopes. I would like to ask one member of each household to raise your hand. Please take an envelope even if you have already given or cannot give at this time. You can indicate either of those choices on the envelope. Again, it is your participation today that is important.

I would like to give you some time to complete the form and consider making a pledge that makes the most sense for you and your family. **As you complete the form, please know that your personal information is confidential and will never be shared with any organization outside the Archdiocese or this parish**. No one else can or will have access to it

***\*\*\*It is important to stop here to pause and allow parishioners time to complete the form***

For parishioners who have already given online or through the Cardinal’s request letter, please complete the shaded areas only. Please do not indicate any additional financial information on the envelope, so as not to double count your pledge.

Also, if appropriate, please note Spanish/Portuguese/Vietnamese/Haitian Creole translations on the reverse side.

***\*\*\*It is important to stop here to pause and allow parishioners time to complete the form.***

It is NOT necessary to make a payment today. Fill in the amount that you would like to PLEDGE. You will be sent monthly reminder cards so you can make payments by check, credit card, or even online—whatever is most convenient for you.

Most importantly, please write our **PARISH NAME/TOWN** on the space indicated. This is crucial so that your gift is properly credited to our parish. If you are visiting from another parish, you may write that parish name and town in the space instead.

***\*\*\*It is important to stop again to allow parishioners time to complete the form. Wait until about half of those participating are looking back at you before you continue.***

Please be sure to tear off the pledge form, place it in the envelope, and seal it. Keep the pencil separate and drop it in the collection basket along with your completed pledge envelope. The volunteers will now collect your pledge envelopes and pencils.

On behalf of Cardinal Seán and myself, thank you for your contribution to the 2020 Catholic Appeal. May God bless you.