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**Witness Talk Sample**

**Announcement Weekend: March 4-5**

There isn’t one formula for an impactful speech, but it is important that your talk be personal and warm, and that you sincerely ask your fellow parishioners for their help in supporting the ministries funded by the Catholic Appeal. Your main role will be to “bring to life” the Catholic Appeal message of “Faith in Actions, It all Starts with You”.

Please take a few minutes to review this full script, add your own voice, and practice. As you review, keep these couple of things in mind:

1. Use language and a tone that works for your parish. This should feel like a conversation with a friend, not a directive.
2. Please share your script with your pastor. Your messaging should be aligned with his. This is also a nice time to review together which of your own parish ministries are supported by the Appeal and which you’d like to highlight.
3. Before printing, increase the font size for easy viewing at Mass.

**Good morning / Afternoon / Evening:**

Thank you for allowing me a few minutes to share the importance of supporting the annual Catholic Appeal.

For those of you who don’t know me, my name is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and I have been a parishioner here at \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ years. Being a part of this parish enriches my life in so many ways (offer a few ways in which you are involved or how the parish supports you as an individual or your family). It is for this reason and many others that I support the Catholic Appeal.

The annual Appeal supports the many essential ministries of our Church that put faith into action to serve those in need and ensure our parish and all parishes continue to shine beacons of light and hope in our communities. Simply put, the Catholic Appeal supports our parishes, our faith, and all those who seek Christ in today’s world.

There are more than 250 parishes scattered throughout the 144 cities and towns within the Archdiocese of Boston. Each and every one, including ours, relies on the wide-ranging support received through the Archdiocese. **No parish on its own could ever afford to employ a team of experts that offers vital assistance in day-to-day operations.** By supporting Fr. \_\_\_\_ with many of the operational tasks of the parish, he can tend to the spiritual and ministerial needs of [name of our parish].

**We also rely on the ministries funded by the Appeal that enable us to live out our faith together.**

**Ministries like…**. Detailing specific ministries that your parish benefits from

One of the ministries funded by the Catholic Appeal is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. This ministry provides \_\_\_\_\_ to our parish.

Please include here any specific programs that your parish offers. Some examples may include.

* Does your parish have a Deacon
* Does your parish support the Pro-Life office by holding a baby shower.
* Does your parish have a school which relies on the Catholic Schools Office.

**The support provided through the essential ministries impacts our greater communities in meaningful and far-reaching ways.** The Catholic Appeal reminds us that we as Catholics are part of the larger Church, not just our own local parish. By all parishes working together to provide support to all the ministries and services throughout the Archdiocese, we accomplish what we cannot do alone.

This year’s 2023 Catholic Appeal will launch at next weekend’s Masses. Many of you have already received responded to Cardinal Sean O’Malley letter asking for your early support. Thank you! Your early contributions energize the campaign and help our parish be successful in our overall efforts.

Commitment Weekend provides us a unique opportunity, as a parish, to show our commitment to the work of our Church. If you have never given, please consider joining me and #\_\_\_ of our parish families whose early support has launched our campaign. Please be sure to read our bulletin insert which has important information on the life changing work made possible through your support of the Catholic Appeal.

\*For parishes playing the video at Mass: I’d like to share this year’s Catholic Appeal video. It highlights some of the important ways that we as a parish can join in solidarity with the greater Church and turn our faith… into action.

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