



**Together as One**

Our Diocesan Annual Appeal  
#whywegive

# Parish Coordinator Guide 2025-2026



# Together as One

August 2025

Dear Pastors and Parish Staff,

As we prepare to kick off the 2025-2026 Together as One (TAO) Annual Appeal on the weekend of September 13-14, I want to take a moment to sincerely thank you and your staff for your dedication and collaboration over the past year. This important work would not be possible without your continued support and partnership.

On Monday, September 15, a TAO direct mail letter will be sent to your parishioners, inviting them to prayerfully consider making a gift or pledge to the appeal. Parishioners may choose to give online, by mail or by bringing their gift to Mass, joining fellow members of your parish in supporting the vital ministries of our diocese.

All the materials needed to support a successful Kickoff Weekend are available on our website: [scdiocese.org/taoparishresources](https://scdiocese.org/taoparishresources)

We understand that with ongoing pastoral planning and local campaigns, you may have concerns about promoting financial support for TAO. How will parishioners respond? I believe in the generosity and commitment of the faithful throughout our diocese. When presented with a clear invitation to be part of the Church's mission, they will respond with open hearts.

Please remember the strength of your message. Through the TAO Annual Appeal, you are supporting ministries that transform lives, retreats and conferences where young people encounter Christ, as well as formation and resources that strengthen marriages and families.

Once again, **thank you** for your leadership and dedication to the TAO Appeal. Your feedback is always welcome, as we continually seek ways to better serve your parish's unique needs.

Yours in Christ,



Heidi Probasco  
Director of Stewardship & Development  
Diocese of Sioux City



Our Diocesan Annual Appeal  
#whywegive



# Together as One

## ***Thank you for your support of the TAO Annual Appeal 2025-2026!***

Enclosed you will find information and marketing tools designed with your success in mind.

Please know there are several people within the Chancery that are here to help in any way that we can. Please contact any of the following individuals with questions or comments:

### **Office of Stewardship & Development**

Heidi Probasco

[heidip@scdiocese.org](mailto:heidip@scdiocese.org)

712-233-7513

Lexa Hawkins

[lexah@scdiocese.org](mailto:lexah@scdiocese.org)

712-233-7524

Michelle Steinbach

[michelles@scdiocese.org](mailto:michelles@scdiocese.org)

712-233-7523

### **Office of Finance**

Diane Donnelly

[dianed@scdiocese.org](mailto:dianed@scdiocese.org)

712-233-7594

Marilyn Wellman

[marilynw@scdiocese.org](mailto:marilynw@scdiocese.org)

712-233-7518



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# 2025-2026 Together As One: Parish Goals

Parish	Goal	Parish	Goal
<b>Algona, Divine Mercy</b>	\$61,715	<b>Milford, St. Joseph</b>	\$41,490
<b>Alton, St. Mary</b>	\$9,180	<b>Moville, Sts. Isidore &amp; Maria</b>	\$20,438
<b>Boone, Ascension</b>	\$43,894	<b>Onawa, St. John</b>	\$10,077
<b>Breda, Good Shepherd</b>	\$14,965	<b>Pocahontas, St. Sebastian</b>	\$25,920
<b>Carroll, St. John Paul II</b>	\$50,108	<b>Remsen, St. Mary</b>	\$18,304
<b>Cherokee, Immaculate Conception</b>	\$25,958	<b>Rock Rapids, Holy Name</b>	\$8,045
<b>Denison, St. Rose of Lima</b>	\$36,289	<b>Salix, St. Joseph</b>	\$13,282
<b>Emmetsburg, Holy Family</b>	\$17,122	<b>Sheldon, St. Patrick</b>	\$7,908
<b>Estherville, St. Patrick</b>	\$25,691	<b>Sibley, St. Andrew</b>	\$13,014
<b>Graettinger, Immaculate Conception</b>	\$13,857	<b>Sioux Center, Our Lady of Guadalupe</b>	\$24,291
<b>Granville, St. Joseph</b>	\$10,880	<b>Sioux City, Cathedral</b>	\$55,057
<b>Holstein, Our Lady of Good Counsel</b>	\$9,979	<b>Sioux City, Holy Cross</b>	\$35,909
<b>Hospers, St. Anthony</b>	\$5,159	<b>Sioux City, Mater Dei</b>	\$62,264
<b>Humboldt, St. Mary</b>	\$20,038	<b>Sioux City, Sacred Heart</b>	\$15,326
<b>Ida Grove, St. Therese of Lisieux</b>	\$27,959	<b>Spencer, Sacred Heart</b>	\$48,436
<b>Jefferson, St. Joseph</b>	\$17,641	<b>Spirit Lake, St Mary</b>	\$28,668
<b>Lake City, Our Lady of the Plains</b>	\$18,179	<b>Storm Lake, St. Mary</b>	\$26,880
<b>Larchwood St. Mary</b>	\$14,179	<b>Wall Lake, St. Joseph</b>	\$15,676
<b>Le Mars, All Saints</b>	\$41,287	<b>Webster County, Holy Trinity</b>	\$50,558
<b>Marcus, Holy Name</b>	\$24,100		

**\*We encourage each parish to increase the “public” goal you share with your parishioners to promote giving for parish projects as 100% of funds raised above and beyond the parish goal goes back to the parish.**

## TAO Batches

- **Use the Transmittal Form (Appendix 1)**—A completed transmittal form must accompany each TAO batch. This form summarizes the total amount of enclosed pledges and payments. Including a calculator tape or an excel sheet listed the pledges and payments is also very helpful.
- **DO NOT Staple Checks to Pledge Cards**—Please avoid stapling checks to pledges cards. Staples left in checks can cause issues during bank processing.
- **Keep Pledge Cards with Corresponding Payments (Appendix 2)**—Do not separate pledge cards from their payments. Create a pledge card if one is not included with payment.
- **Submit Batches Weekly, If Possible**—Timely submissions help prevent delays in processing. We often have inquiries from parishioners asking why their checks have not cleared. Regular weekly submissions can help minimize these concerns.



## Parish Changes

- Please notify Michelle Steinbach at michelles@scdiocese.org on a monthly basis with any parishioner updates. This includes:
  - \* Address Changes
  - \* Marriages
  - \* Deaths
  - \* Divorces
  - \* New Parishioners
- The update form is available online at: [scdiocese.org/parish-roster-updates](https://scdiocese.org/parish-roster-updates).

## TAO Reports

- TAO donor reports are sent out weekly during the initial weeks of the appeal, and then periodically as new gifts are received.
- You may request an updated report at any time.
- Please review and reconcile the report carefully with your parish records. This is an excellent way to catch and correct any discrepancies before pledge reminders are sent to donors.

## Tax Acknowledgements

- The Office of Stewardship & Development will send tax acknowledgement letters for **ALL** TAO contributions as gifts are processed.
- Please **DO NOT** include TAO payments in your parish's annual contribution statements.

## Payback & Shortfall Payment Schedule

- The TAO payback schedule for 2025-2026 appeal will be: mid December, mid March, late June.
- Donations received after June 15, 2026 will be applied to 2026-2027 TAO Appeal.
- Any shortfalls to the appeal goal will be billed in late June 2026.



# ***Together As One FAQ's***

## ***What is Together as One (TAO)?***

Together as One began in the 1970's and is one of three main sources of income for the diocese. Funds raised support a variety of programs throughout the diocese.

## ***How does TAO work?***

Each parish is given a goal. Once the goal is met, 100% of the funds raised thereafter are returned to the parish for its individual needs.

## ***Why is it important to support both my parish and TAO?***

TAO helps support the ongoing ministries of the Church which provide educational, pastoral, and charitable outreach to those living in the diocese. This support makes possible services that no single parish could provide on its own.

## ***How is the overall TAO goal determined?***

The TAO goal is determined by the diocesan budget as the diocese works to provide the services and programs the appeal supports.

## ***How is the TAO parish goal determined?***

Each parish has a goal based on each parish's ordinary income.

## ***What happens if my parish does not meet its goal?***

If the goal is not met, the balance due is billed to the parish. Last year 29 parishes out of 43 parishes achieved their goal.

## ***How much should I give to TAO?***

Charitable giving reflects our Christian stewardship of treasure. Your gift is a personal decision between you and God and should be made after prayerful reflection.

## ***Why are pledges encouraged?***

Pledges provide you with the opportunity to make a more significant gift to the mission of the Church over an extended period of time.

## ***How can I make a gift?***

Return your pledge card by putting it in the collection basket

Online at [scdiocese.org/together-as-one](http://scdiocese.org/together-as-one)

Mail a check to: Diocese of Sioux City | PO Box 3379 | Sioux City, IA 51102

Gift of grain or stock: call 712-255-7933 for more information **(Appendix 3)**

Charitable Gift Annuity (CGA), Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) from an IRA or through a Donor Advised Fund (DAF)

Don't forget to remember a parish in your estate plan

# *Ideas to Improve Participation*

- Review the materials provided on the Diocese website: [scdiocese.org/taoparishresources](https://scdiocese.org/taoparishresources). Call the Office of Stewardship & Development at 712-233-7524 with questions.
- Parishioners need to have at least two weeks advance notice so they will be prepared to make their pledge. Use bulletin/pulpit announcements and prayers of the faithful in the weeks leading up to kick-off weekend. **(Appendix 4)**
- Speak and publish only positive things about Together as One and the many programs that provide service to more than 24,000 households. A positive attitude toward the appeal is contagious. **(Appendix 5)**
- Before the pastor asks the people of the parish to make a pledge, he should make his gift first and explain why he is doing so.
- Utilize weekly pulpit announcements from parish leaders, deacons and/or pastors, sharing your parish's progress towards goal and encouraging participation from all parishioners. **(Appendix 6)**
- Encourage pledging—instead of one-time gifts; remind people they may make a pledge and pay it weekly, biweekly, monthly or quarterly.
- Assure parishioners that every gift is important and every gift helps. Participation is critical to success and shows solidarity with one's faith family. **(Appendix 7)**
- Keep a few extra pledge cards in all pews and in the back of church readily available and easily accessible to parishioners.
- Ask a lay person to speak for 1-2 minutes about how TAO benefits and impacts them. Ask a past or current TAO donor, a recently married couple, your parish bookkeeper or a student who has attended a retreat. If you need assistance in identifying a lay speaker, or preparing a lay talk, please feel free to contact the Office of Stewardship & Development at 712-233-7524. **(Appendix 8)**
- Ask a few volunteers to call parishioners to personally invite them to participate in the TAO appeal. Call the Office of Stewardship & Development at 712-233-7524 for a sample script.



## ***Did You Know?***

### **Did you know?**

- When people feel **inspired** to give to a cause, they tend to give as much as they are able.
- When people feel **obligated** to give, they often give only the minimum expected.
- Our goal is not to have people “give until it hurts”, but to invite them to give until it feels good, knowing their gift is making a difference.

### **What NOT to do:**

- Don't apologize for the appeal.
- Don't frame it as a chore or another “required” donation. This is an **opportunity** for Stewardship or time, talent and treasure.
- Avoid discouraging statements such as
  - ◊ “I know our economy has not been very strong the last few years, and many of you are struggling, so just give if you can Or any similar opinion-based comments.

Let parishioners prayerfully decide their level of commitment. Their decision is a personal matter between them and God.



## ***Combine a Parish Campaign with TAO Fundraising***

Parishes wishing to raise additional funds over its Together as One (TAO) parish goal can do so by linking a parish project(s) with TAO fundraising. The additional funds raised can accomplish a specific capital project, add to a savings/endowment, help with repairs or pay a debt.

***100% of everything raised over the TAO parish goal is returned to the parish.***

### Advantages:

- The parish can accomplish a special project(s) without having a separate fundraiser.
- Once the TAO parish goal is achieved, the excess is refunded back to the parish as non-ordinary income.
- The Diocese manages the pledge redemption so that you do not have to do additional mailings or accounting.
- You can ask parishioners for a gift that is equal to the TAO parish goal plus the parish project(s) amount divided by the number of envelope holders.
- Because of a parish project(s), more people are willing to participate because it is something concrete that benefits the parish while accomplishing the annual appeal responsibility.

### Some things to consider:

- The TAO parish goal has to be met first, before funds become available for any parish project(s).
- Parish leaders need to develop a flyer describing the parish project(s).
- The parish project(s) marketing materials need to be made available at the same time as the TAO Annual Appeal announcement.

### Suggestions:

- Do a parish mailing follow-up of non-respondents after a few weeks.
- Suggest that gifts are paid in installments whether that means biweekly, monthly or quarterly.
- State that whatever amount anyone can give is appreciated. Full parish participation is important.
- Be open to a parish campaign for a couple years if the parish campaign total is not achieved in the first year.

## How the Diocese Acknowledges our Together As One Donors

Gift Amount	Acknowledgement
New Donors	Thank you note from the Diocese Development Office.
All Donors	Thank you and tax acknowledgement at the time of the gift. *Monthly donors will have one letter sent in January 2026.



## Here's how you can say Thank You!

- **Children's Liturgy Participants:** Invite the children to color or write a thank you message to your generous donors. Their heartfelt creativity is a wonderful way to show appreciation.
- **Together As One Event Attendees:** Do you have parishioners who have participated in TAO-sponsored events, such as the Men's Conference, Women's Gathering or Marriage Preparation? Encourage them to volunteer by writing a personal thank you note, sharing how the event deepened their faith and helped bring them Together As One.
- **Confirmation Students:** Are your Confirmation students looking to earn volunteer hours? Invite them to contribute by sharing how attending religious education classes or a Catholic school has shaped their faith journey. Their reflections can make meaningful thank you messages.
- **Letter:** A heartfelt thank you letter from the pastor or finance council will let the parishioner know their gift was appreciated. **(Appendix 9)**

# 2025-2026 Together As One

August	September	October	November
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Receive Parish Guide through e-mail.</li> <li>• Priest &amp; Deacon solicitation letters will be mailed out.</li> <li>• Control reports emailed to bookkeepers.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kickoff Weekend September 13-14</li> <li>• The week of September 15, parishioners will receive a mailer, pledge card and prayer card about the appeal with an envelope to return their gift.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Diocesan Development Office contacts parishes for end-of-year letter from Pastors.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prepare letters from Pastors to be sent out.</li> <li>• Mail parish end-of-year letter from Pastors.</li> <li>• Pledge reminders are sent out to all parishes who have set up pledge payments.</li> </ul>
December	January	February	March
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prepare letters from Pastors to be sent out.</li> <li>• Mail parish end-of-year letter from Pastors.</li> <li>• Pledge reminders are sent out to all parishes who have set up pledge payments.</li> <li>• First round of parish paybacks take place.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pledge reminders are sent out to all parishes who have set up pledge payments.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Diocesan Development Office sends letter to SYBUNTS that have not given for the past five years.</li> <li>• Pledge reminders are sent out to all parishes who have set up pledge payments.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Second round of parish paybacks take place.</li> <li>• Rosters sent to parishes for updates.</li> <li>• Pledge reminders are sent out to all parishes who have set up pledge payments.</li> </ul>
April	May	June	On Going
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pledge reminders are sent out to all parishes who have set up pledge payments.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pledge reminders are sent out to all parishes who have set up pledge payments.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Together As One ends on June 15.</li> <li>• Third round of parish paybacks take place.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reports sent weekly if something is processed.</li> </ul>

## 2025-2026 Together As One Parish Transmittal Form

Report Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
(for parish use only)

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parish Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parish Location: \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Pledges Enclosed: \$** \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Payments: \$** \_\_\_\_\_

Submitted by: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Best Time to Call: \_\_\_\_\_

***Please review the following items so we can more efficiently process your TAO batch:***

**Verify that a pledge card is submitted for each payment**

**Indicate the check number on the pledge card**

Paper clip the donor's pledge card and gift together

***Do not staple pledge cards and checks***

Kindly enclose a calculator tape or excel spreadsheet of the pledges and the payments

Retain a photocopy of this transmittal form for your records

Remember to include the prayer intention cards

- \* Please remit TAO batches weekly during the Fall and frequently thereafter
- \* We encourage you to maintain local records to track TAO receipts
- \* Do not send tax acknowledgements for TAO contributions (The Diocese will acknowledge TAO gifts)
- \* Notify Michelle Steinbach at 712-233-7523 or michelles@scdiocese.org of parishioner changes  
For example: address changes, marriages, deaths, divorce and new registrations
- \* **TAO parish reports listing all pledges and payments are available upon request**  
Note: Every parish will receive a report via email in early December
- \* Pledge reminders will be sent to the donors on a monthly basis

***Please forward this form along with the intention cards, pledge cards and gifts to the Finance Office***  
Make extra copies of this form as needed

Forward to:

**Diocese of Sioux City  
Attn: Finance Office  
1821 Jackson Street PO Box 3379  
Sioux City, IA 51102**

*We wish you continued success on your TAO fundraising!*

Have questions or need assistance? Contact Marilyn Wellman 712-233-7518 or marilynwellman@scdiocese.org

Transmittal Original: \_\_\_\_\_

Transmittal Copy Pledge Pmts: \_\_\_\_\_

Transmittal Copy Cash: \_\_\_\_\_

## 2025-2026 Together As One

## Appendix 2

Did you know you can **PLEDGE** your contribution? Smaller payments can be made over a longer period of time! Pledge reminder notices are sent in December, February & April.

**Give Online!**  
[www.scdiocese.org](http://www.scdiocese.org)

### Previous Gift Amount

\$

**My/Our gift to TAO is as follows:**

**Amount Enclosed Today:** \$

First Pledge Payment: \$

Second Pledge Payment: \$

Third Pledge Payment: \$

**2025-2026 Total Gift**

For Parish Use Only

Check Number:

## 2025-2026 Together As One

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### Previous Gift Amount

\$

**My/Our gift to TAO is as follows:**

**Amount Enclosed Today:** \$

First Pledge Payment: \$

Second Pledge Payment: \$

Third Pledge Payment: \$

**2025-2026 Total Gift**

For Parish Use Only

Check Number:



**Grain Ownership Transfer Form**

**Donor Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Donor Address:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Donor Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_ **City/State/Zip:** \_\_\_\_\_

Grain held at: \_\_\_\_\_ **Name of Elevator:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**City:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Contact Person:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Elevator Email:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Elevator Phone #:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Elevator FAX #:** \_\_\_\_\_

I authorize transfer of \_\_\_\_\_ bushels of \_\_\_\_\_  
(type of grain) to the  
Diocese of Sioux City on \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_.  
(This grain is not under contract.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Donor Signature (required)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

On behalf of the elevator listed above, I have  
processed this grain transfer and confirm that  
the grain was not under contract. The grain has  
been transferred to Diocese acct # \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature (required)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**Please instruct the elevator to email this form to Jessica Wilcox at [jessicaw@scdiocese.org](mailto:jessicaw@scdiocese.org).**

**The grain check should be mailed to:**  
**Diocese of Sioux City – Attention: Jessica Wilcox**  
**1821 Jackson Street PO Box 3379**  
**Sioux City, IA 51102**

**Key Points for a Valid Grain Donation:**

- As always, please consult your tax preparer for professional advice for your individual tax situation. The tax law for grain donations is very complex and there are specific criteria that must be met.
- A representative from the Diocese will open an account with the elevator in anticipation of the grain donation. Please contact us in advance so that an account can be established prior to delivery.
- The farmer must deliver grain to the elevator or currently hold grain in their name to provide proof of production. (Please note that contracted grain sales will not be accepted as a grain donation.)
- The farmer must transfer ownership title of the commodity to the Diocese of Sioux City.
- The Diocesan staff must make the final decision to sell the grain.

Questions? Please contact:

- |                  |  |
|------------------|--|
| • Jessica Wilcox | 712-233-7565 or <a href="mailto:jessicaw@scdiocese.org">jessicaw@scdiocese.org</a> |
| • Diane Donnelly | 712-233-7594 or <a href="mailto:dianed@scdiocese.org">dianed@scdiocese.org</a>     |
| • Royce Ranniger | 712-233-7592 or <a href="mailto:roycer@scdiocese.org">roycer@scdiocese.org</a>     |

For Internal Use:

Person Contacted:	# of Bushels and Grain Type:	Sales Price:	Date Donated:
Sale Authorized by _____ on ____/____/____ (date).			Grain Price:

## **TAO Bulletin Blurbs**

(Feel free to edit )

(Continue publishing a weekly status update until the goal is met.)

- The Together as One (TAO) campaign kickoff next weekend!

This is a special opportunity to support our parish, the Diocese and the universal church. Please begin prayerfully considering your participation in this important diocesan effort. A TAO mailing will be sent on September 15. You may respond by returning the enclosed pledge card or by giving online at [scdiocese.org/tao](http://scdiocese.org/tao). Thank you for your generosity!

- The Together as One Appeal begins this weekend!

This is your opportunity to support the important ministries of the Diocese of Sioux City and help our parish at the same time. When a parish exceeds its TAO goal, 100% of the overage is returned directly to the parish. Last year, over \$276,000 was refunded to parishes across the Diocese through Together As One. *(If applicable: Our parish received \$XXX back in support of our own local needs.)* Thank you for your generosity!

- Together As One Appeal

Our parish goal for this year's appeal is \$XX,XXX, I invite every family in our parish to prayerfully consider making a gift. No gift is too small or too large. Each contribution brings us closer to reaching our goal and supports Bishop Keehner in continuing the mission of the Diocese of Sioux City. Thank you for your generosity and commitment.

- The 2025 Together As One Annual Appeal has begun!

TAO is our chance to come together as a Catholic community and make a meaningful impact on the physical and spiritual well-being of our brothers and sisters throughout the Diocese of Sioux City. You can support the appeal by making a gift or pledge using the brochure that recently arrived in your mailbox or by giving online at [scdiocese.org/tao](http://scdiocese.org/tao). Thank you for your prayerful support!

- Together as One is our opportunity to be faithful stewards of God's gifts, sharing our blessings with Catholics across the diocese. Through this appeal, we join as one family of faith to support programs and ministries no single parish could offer alone. Your gift matters, every contribution, large or small, helps us reach our goal and strengthen our mission.

- Thank you to all who have already supported Together as One with your prayers and gifts. This weekend, we invite anyone who has not yet given, to join us in this act of gratitude. Every gift, no matter the size, makes a difference. Our parish has currently committed **\$XXX** toward our goal of **\$XXXX**. Thank you for your generosity!
- Together as One is a beautiful expression of unity, helping us live out Christ's mission in our diocese today. Please consider making a gift or pledge. Your generosity makes our shared mission possible.
- Gifts to Together as One are part of our stewardship of treasure. This year's diocesan goal is higher so we can continue to expand our impact through vital ministries. Please join us today by returning the pledge card you received in the mail or by giving online at **[scdiocese.org/tao](https://scdiocese.org/tao)**.
- Thank you for your generous response to Bishop Keehner's call to support Together as One! We are now **XX%** toward our parish goal of **\$XXX**. If you haven't yet returned your pledge card, please do so this week. The sooner we respond, the sooner we meet our goal!
- Together as One supports the Office of Archives, which preserves the history and heritage of the Catholic Church in Northwest Iowa by collecting and caring for the diocese's historical and vital records. Your gift helps keep our story alive for future generations.
- Together as One supports the Office of the Chancellor, which serves our diocese by processing letters of good standing for clergy, vetting visiting priests and deacons, and collecting sacramental and parish records. Your contribution ensures these essential services continue.
- You are a generous parish family! Thank you for responding to Bishop Keehner and me, your pastor, in making a gift or pledge to Together as One. We only need **\$XXX** more to meet our goal. You'll find a QR code and online giving link in this bulletin — please help us finish strong so we can all "pat ourselves on the back" for another success!
- Together as One supports the Office of Faith Formation, which serves parishes by supporting evangelization, leadership training, catechesis for all ages, and sacramental preparation. Your generosity helps form disciples and strengthen our faith communities.
- Together as One supports the Office of Pastoral Planning, which works with parishes to create intentional, missionary-focused plans for vitality and growth. Your gift helps ensure vibrant parish life now and in the future.

- Together as One supports Catholic Charities, which strengthens individuals and families through charity, advocacy, and Christ-inspired mental health services. Your generosity changes lives in our communities.
- Together as One supports the Peace and Justice Commission, which brings Catholic Social Teaching to life through parish programs, projects, and advocacy efforts. Your gift helps our faith act in the world.
- Together as One supports the Propagation of the Faith, which invites prayer, sacrifice, and financial help for the Church's missionary work around the globe. Your gift helps spread the Gospel to those who need it most.
- Together as One supports the Office of Marriage and Family Life, which helps parishes prepare couples for marriage and strengthen family ministry. Your gift supports strong Catholic marriages and families.
- Together as One supports the Office of Stewardship & Development, which equips parishioners to discover, grow, and live out discipleship as stewards of God's gifts. Your generosity fuels this mission.
- Together as One supports the Office of the Tribunal, which safeguards the rights of the faithful by interpreting and applying Church law. Your gift helps ensure this vital ministry continues its important work.
- Together as One supports the Office of the Vicar General, the highest administrative office in the diocese, which oversees all diocesan operations. Your gift strengthens the Church's ability to serve effectively.
- Together as One supports the Office of Worship, which assists parishes and schools in music, sacramental celebrations, devotional practices, and liturgical formation. Your generosity enriches our worship life.
- Together as One supports the Office of Risk Management, which oversees property, casualty, auto, and workers' compensation programs for the diocese, as well as parish safety inspections. Your gift helps protect our Church's people and resources.
- Together as One supports the Office of Safe Environment, which ensures that all children and young people are safe as they grow in faith and knowledge of Jesus Christ in our parishes and schools. Your gift helps create a safe and loving environment for all.

- Together as One supports the Parish Accounting Office, which provides financial expertise and oversight to help parishes manage their resources responsibly. Your gift helps keep our parishes strong and stable.
- Together as One supports the Office of Human Resources, which serves parishes and schools with compliance, benefits, recruitment, and performance management. Your generosity strengthens those who serve our Church.
- Together as One supports the Office of Communications, which keeps Catholics in northwest Iowa connected with diocesan news and events. Follow the Diocese of Sioux City on Facebook, X and Instagram. Thank you for making this work possible!
- Thank you for your continued support for Together as One. Your gifts sustain ministries like Faith Formation, Youth Ministry, Catholic Charities, Parish Accounting, and so much more. Please consider making a gift or pledge today through the brochure you received or online at **[scdiocese.org/tao](https://scdiocese.org/tao)**.
- Gifts to Together as One are part of our stewardship of treasure. This year's diocesan goal is higher so we can reach more people through ministry. Please join us today by returning your pledge card or giving online at **[scdiocese.org/tao](https://scdiocese.org/tao)**.
- Thank you to all who have supported Together as One through prayer and meaningful gifts. This weekend, we invite those who have not yet given to join in this act of gratitude. Our parish has currently committed **\$XXX** toward our goal of **\$XXXX**. Every gift makes a difference!
- Together as One unites all Catholics in our diocese to carry out Christ's mission today. Please consider making a gift or pledge or give anytime at **[scdiocese.org/tao](https://scdiocese.org/tao)**.
- Together as One supports the Office of Safe Environment, which works to ensure all children and youth are safe as they grow in faith in our parishes and schools. Your generosity helps us protect the most vulnerable among us.

Please include this QR code in your bulletin for parishioners to use.







# Together as One

## Pastor Sample Talk:

This coming week you will receive an packet in the mail requesting your support of the 2025-2026 Together as One Annual Appeal. Please prayerfully consider making a gift and know that your gift will help fund ministries that benefit the more than 25,000 Catholic households and countless others throughout northwest Iowa.

Together as One (TAO) plays a vital role in supporting the programs, services and ministries essential to our parishes. In our increasingly interconnected world, not a single parish can thrive in isolation. Together as One enables us to pool our resources and collectively support the broader mission of the Church.

As we look ahead to the 2025-2026 TAO Annual Appeal, let us recognize the challenges we have faced. Despite these challenges, our mission remains unchanged. We are all to be beacons of hope, rooted in community and centered on the Eucharist.

I am grateful for the guidance provided by our Diocesan offices, which serve as pillars of support for our parishes and schools. Together as One has a tangible impact on the lives of countless individuals. It embodies the essence of our Catholic faith—our willingness to carry each other's burdens and enriching our Church as a whole.

As we embark on this journey of faith and stewardship, may we be inspired by the example of Christ, who calls us to love one another as He has loved us. Together let us continue to build a community united in the Eucharist.

Here are just a few of the services and ministries that touch our parishes:

- Faith Formation
- Marriage & Family Life
- Pro-Life
- Office of Worship
- Parish Accounting
- Communications
- Safe Environment
- Catholic Charities



Our Diocesan Annual Appeal  
#whywegive



# Together as One

Our parish goal this year is \$ \_\_\_\_\_. I encourage you to set aside some time this week to reflect and pray over your pledge, considering how it aligns with your personal circumstances and the success of our appeal. Regardless of size, every contribution plays a significant role in supporting our parish community. Your participation in this appeal is deeply valued.

The needs of our fellow Catholics persist and your participation is essential to affect meaningful change. Let us strive to emulate the compassion and generosity of Christ, extending a helping hand to those in need and embodying His teachings in our daily lives.

May God bless you abundantly for your prayers and generosity. Thank you for your unwavering support of our parish community.



Our Diocesan Annual Appeal  
#whywegive

## Pulpit Announcements

- The Together as One (TAO) campaign kickoff will be next weekend. This is your opportunity to assist our parish, the Diocese and the universal church. Please plan now to participate in this important diocesan endeavor. Thank you for your thoughtfulness. The mailing is scheduled to be mailed on September 15. You can give by returning the pledge card that will be mailed to you or by giving online at [scdiocese.org/tao](https://scdiocese.org/tao).
- Together as One begins this weekend. This is your opportunity to assist the Diocese in its ministry. You can assist our parish with your pledge as well. When a parish goes over its goal, 100% of that overage amount is returned to the parish for its use. Over \$276,000 was refunded from last year's Appeal to diocesan parishes. **(Mention also what your parish received if they received a payback.)**
- All our parishioners received an invitation from Bishop John Keehner to participate in the 2025-2026 Together as One (TAO) Annual Appeal. Our 2025-2026 TAO goal is \$XX,XXX. ***I would like to invite all our parish families to prayerfully consider a gift to the 2025-2026 TAO Annual Appeal.*** No gift is too small or too large; each gift will help us reach our parish goal and help Bishop Keehner to further his mission of the Diocese of Sioux City.
- This week, we begin the 2025-2026 Together as One Annual Appeal. TAO is our opportunity as members of the larger Catholic community to have an impact on the physical and spiritual lives of our brothers and sisters in the Diocese of Sioux City. Join us today in support of TAO with a gift or a pledge through a brochure that will be mailed to you this week or by giving online at [scdiocese.org/tao](https://scdiocese.org/tao).
- Together as One is an opportunity for us to be good stewards of God's gifts as we share with other Catholics our treasure and blessings and show our love for one another. Together as One gives us the opportunity to act together as a family of faith and support the programs and services no single individual or parish can offer by themselves. Your gift is important. Every gift, regardless of size, is vital to the success of the Appeal.
- Together as One funds many ministries that allow us to educate the next generation. These funds provide opportunities for our elementary, middle and high school aged youth to grow in their Catholic faith through Catholic schools, campus ministry and religious

education. Please help us continue to nurture the youth in our communities as we help them evolve and grow closer to Jesus.

- Giving is not easy. It costs us something. We thank you for the sacrifices you make for our community of faith, and we honor you for your generous support of Together as One.
- We give thanks for the generosity of XX of our parishioners who have contributed to Together as One. May their example of stewardship lead others to respond in the same way. If you have not given to the Appeal, I encourage you to discern making a gift this weekend. Even more importantly, I ask for your prayers for the success of the Annual Appeal. God Bless!
- Thank you for your generous response to the request from Bishop Keehner to make a pledge to Together as One. We are now XX% toward our goal of \$XXX. For those who have not returned their pledge card, I am asking, as your pastor, to do so by next week. We will meet our goal quickly when you respond sooner rather than later!
- Jesus calls us to be alert to the opportunities to be His disciples, His witnesses and share His love. Your participation in Together as One is an extension of our call to discipleship in our parish. Every gift matters. To date, XX have committed \$XXX towards our goal of \$XXXX.
- The 2025-2026 Together as One funds many ministries that allow us to proclaim the Gospel. Your support plays a critical role in funding ministries in the areas of evangelization, discipleship, worship, liturgy, sacramental preparation and a wide variety of programs that pour forth God's grace, love and mercy. We would like to invite our entire parish community to help us continue to spread the good news, we are Stronger Together.
- You are great parishioners! Thank you so much for responding to Bishop Keehner and me, your pastor, in making a gift or pledge to Together as One. We need only \$XXX to meet our goal. You will find a QR code in the bulletin along with an online giving link. Please do your part so that we can all "pat ourselves on our backs" for another success.
- Together as One supports the Communications Office. Your contribution helps LumeNotes, a communication that allows us to stay connected to our diocese and Catholic faith.

- Together as One (TAO) supports the Office of Archives. The Archives Office collects, organizes, preserves and makes available for research the historical and vital records of the Diocese of Sioux City, as well as materials which reflect the work of the Church with the Diocese, thereby promoting an understanding of the history and heritage of the Catholic Church in northwest Iowa. Join us today in support of TAO with a gift or pledge through the brochure that was mailed to you or giving online at [scdiocese.org/tao](http://scdiocese.org/tao).
- Together as One funds many ministries that allow us to serve our communities, not just our parish community but our larger Catholic family. Catholic Charities is one of those ministries that help to reach the underserved and disadvantaged in our own backyard.
- Together, through the help of the Holy Spirit, we will create a culture of unity, evangelization, leadership and mercy. May God transform our simple gifts to Together as One and bring the ministry of the church to its fulfillment. Our parish has currently committed \$XXX towards our goal of \$XXXX. Thank you for saying yes to being a disciple and living mercy to our neighbors across the diocese.
- Together as One (TAO) supports the Office of Marriage and Family Life. This office provides support to the parishes in preparation for the vocation and sacrament of marriage as well as family ministry. To date, our parish has raised \$XXX towards our goal of \$XXXX Please prayerfully consider supporting this year's Together as One.
- The star of Bethlehem pointed the way for the magi to find Jesus. Through your support of Together as One, you, too, can help point the way to Jesus and help our community shine so brightly that anyone can clearly find Jesus here in God's house. Join us today in support of TAO with a gift or pledge through the brochure that was mailed to you or giving online at [scdiocese.org/tao](http://scdiocese.org/tao).
- Together as One (TAO) supports the Office of Stewardship & Development. The mission of the Office of Stewardship & Development is to assist, teach and empower our parishioners to discover, grow and live out discipleship as stewards of God's gifts. To date, our parish has raised \$XXX towards our goal of \$XXXX Please prayerfully consider supporting this year's Together as One.
- Love manifests in many ways, including generosity of heart. Let the love you have received from Jesus through our parish overflow so that



it may help others experience the same Please give generously to Together as One. Thank you for your generous heart!

- Together as One (TAO) supports the Office of the Tribunal. The office of the tribunal protects the rights of all the faithful by interpreting and applying the laws of the church. To date, our parish has raised \$XXX towards our goal of \$XXXX Please prayerfully consider supporting this year's Together as One.
- Gifts to Together As One (TAO) are part of our stewardship of treasure. Our goal as a Diocese is higher this year so we may continue to impact lives through Diocesan ministry. Join us today in support of TAO with a gift or pledge through the brochure that was mailed to you or giving online at [scdiocese.org/tao](http://scdiocese.org/tao).
- Your generosity to Together as One is a commitment to be part of the Living Body of Christ. Please prayerfully consider the gifts you have received and share a portion of your blessings with others during this time. To date, our parish has raised \$XXX towards our goal of \$XXXX Please prayerfully consider supporting this year's Together as One.
- Together as One (TAO) supports Catholic Charities. Catholic Charities empowers and strengthens all individuals and families, through charity, advocacy and mental health services that are inspired by Christ's love and compassion. Join us today in support of TAO with a gift or pledge through the brochure that was mailed to you or giving online at [scdiocese.org/tao](http://scdiocese.org/tao).
- Together as One (TAO) supports the Peace and Justice Commission. The commission works to make Catholic Social Teaching come alive by providing programs, projects and various advocacy efforts for parishes and individuals. To date, our parish has raised \$XXX towards our goal of \$XXXX Please prayerfully consider supporting this year's Together as One.
- Together as One (TAO) supports the Propagation of the Faith. The Propagation of the Faith seeks prayer, sacrifice and financial support for the Church's missionary work. Join us today in support of TAO with a gift or pledge through the brochure that was mailed to you or giving online at [scdiocese.org/tao](http://scdiocese.org/tao).
- Together as One (TAO) supports the Office of Worship. The Office of Worship is a resource for parishes and schools with respect to music, sacramental celebrations, devotional practices and liturgical formation.

To date, our parish has raised \$XXX towards our goal of \$XXXX Please prayerfully consider supporting this year's Together as One.

- Together as One (TAO) supports the Office of the Vicar General. This office is the highest administrative office in the diocese and oversees all administrative matters. Join us today in support of TAO with a gift or pledge through the brochure that was mailed to you or giving online at [scdiocese.org/tao](http://scdiocese.org/tao).
- Our local parish is God's house. When you give to Together as One, you help beautify it physically and spiritually by making it beautiful, sacred and life-giving to our local community.
- Together as One (TAO) supports the Office of Safe Environment. The Safe Environment program is to help ensure that all children and young people feel safe as they come to our programs designed to help them grow in their Catholic faith and in the love and knowledge of Jesus Christ in our parishes and schools. Join us today in support of TAO with a gift or pledge through the brochure that was mailed to you or giving online at [scdiocese.org/tao](http://scdiocese.org/tao).
- Together as One (TAO) supports the Office of Risk Management. This office administers the diocesan self-insurance program including property, casualty, auto and workers' compensation matters. They also coordinate and conduct on-site safety inspections of all diocesan locations. Join us today in support of TAO with a gift or pledge through the brochure that was mailed to you or giving online at [scdiocese.org/tao](http://scdiocese.org/tao).
- Together as One (TAO) supports the Communications Office. The office of Communications keeps you stay connected with the Diocese and all the great things happening for NW Iowa Catholics. You can follow the Diocese of Sioux City on Facebook, X and Instagram! To date, our parish has raised \$XXX towards our goal of \$XXXX Please prayerfully consider supporting this year's Together as One.
- Together as One (TAO) supports the Office of the Chancellor. The Office of the Chancellor processes letters of good standing for priests and deacons, vets all visiting priests and deacons, collects parish vital stats and collects sacrament record data. Join us today in support of TAO with a gift or pledge through the brochure that was mailed to you or giving online at [scdiocese.org/tao](http://scdiocese.org/tao).

- Together as One (TAO) supports the Faith Formation Office. The Office of Faith Formation's primary mission is to provide direct services and support to our pastors and parishes in the areas of evangelization, leadership formation, adult and youth catechesis, sacrament preparation/religious education and ministry. To date, our parish has raised \$XXX towards our goal of \$XXXX. Please prayerfully consider supporting this year's Together as One.
- Together as One (TAO) supports the Parish Accounting office. The parish accounting office provides financial oversight & expertise, assistance with maintenance of financial records and controls in accordance with legal requirements of running a small business. Join us today in support of TAO with a gift or pledge through the brochure that was mailed to you or giving online at [scdiocese.org/tao](http://scdiocese.org/tao).
- Together as One (TAO) supports the Office of Human Resource (HR). HR provides services to each parish and school for: compliance with state and federal labor law mandates, benefits administration, recruitment and performance management. To date, our parish has raised \$XXX towards our goal of \$XXXX. Please prayerfully consider supporting this year's Together as One.
- Bishop Keehner is grateful for the prayers and support of the faithful of our Diocese and for those who have made a gift or pledge to Together As One (TAO). Please consider a gift in support of his ministries that serve our Catholic community. Giving online at [scdiocese.org/tao](http://scdiocese.org/tao).
- Thank you to all who have supported Together as One through prayer and meaningful gifts. This weekend we invite all those who have yet to make a gift to join their fellow parishioners in an expression of gratitude. Every gift, no matter how large or small, makes a difference. Our parish has currently committed \$XXX towards our goal of \$XXXX. Thank you for your generosity.
- Together As One (TAO) is a pillar of support for caring for the marginalized and for the critically needed ministries such as religious education, adult formation, youth and young adult ministry. Join us today in support of TAO with a gift or pledge through the brochure that was mailed to you or giving online at [scdiocese.org/tao](http://scdiocese.org/tao).

## **Prayers of the Faithful**

- Prayer –For the success of Together as One, 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
- Prayer – That, alive with the joy of Jesus, our Together as One appeal may bless our community greatly; WE PRAY TO THE LORD
- Prayer – That, responding to Christ from our hearts, we might generously support our Together as One appeal and help make it bear much fruit; WE PRAY TO THE LORD
- Prayer – In consideration of the many gifts that God has given each of us, may our parish community respond generously to Together as One; WE PRAY TO THE LORD
- Prayer – As we consider our gifts to the Together as One appeal, may we remember God's generosity to us, and consider giving back in gratitude; WE PRAY TO THE LORD
- Prayer -For all of our people, that God will truly bless us for our support of our parish and our Together as One appeal; WE PRAY TO THE LORD
- Prayer – That, remaining in Jesus' love, we may support the many needs of our community through our Together as One appeal; WE PRAY TO THE LORD
- Prayer - That the people of (insert parish) will respond generously to Together as One as an outward sign of our membership in the Body of Christ in the Diocese of Sioux City; WE PRAY TO THE LORD
- Prayer – That, in giving to Together as One, each of us may shine brightly to our neighbors seeking Christ; WE PRAY TO THE LORD
- Prayer - In this season of gratitude and giving, may we recognize all that God has done for us and express our thanksgiving through stewardship to our parish and the diocese; WE PRAY TO THE LORD
- Prayer - That, lifted up by a successful Together as One appeal, our parish may shine as bright as Jesus wishes for our neighbors; WE

## PRAY TO THE LORD

- Prayer - For Bishop Keehner and the priests, deacons, religious, lay leaders and teachers who serve the parishes, schools and ministries of the diocese. May God continue to guide them and through their discipleship may they lead us to be good stewards of the gifts God has entrusted to us: W WE PRAY TO THE LORD
- Prayer - We pray for those who selflessly serve the people of God throughout our diocese. May their love inspire us to share God's gift of mercy with others; WE PRAY TO THE LORD
- Prayer – We pray we understand that we touch many lives through TAO and that the people whose lives we touch may know Christ's love. WE PRAY TO THE LORD
- Prayer – We pray that we may respond generously to the annual appeal as good stewards of God's many gifts. WE PRAY TO THE LORD
- Prayer - We pray that we may show generosity and love for one another by sharing our financial gifts for the good of the whole Church the TAO annual appeal. WE PRAY TO THE LORD
- Prayer – We pray that our good and gracious God will continue to bless the Diocese of Sioux City. WE PRAY TO THE LORD
- Prayer – We pray by supporting Together as One, may our eyes be opened to the real needs of others. WE PRAY TO THE LORD
- Prayer – We pray that we continue to serve the Lord together through participation in Together as One. WE PRAY TO THE LORD
- Prayer – We pray that we may prayerfully consider how we can best use our financial and spiritual resources to further the mission of Jesus Christ, not only in our parish but throughout the Diocese. WE PRAY TO THE LORD
- Prayer – We pray that we may respond generously to the Annual Appeal for Catholic Ministries as faithful stewards of the gifts that God has entrusted to us. WE PRAY TO THE LORD
- Prayer - We pray in thanksgiving for all those who support the work of the Church through Together as One. WE PRAY TO THE LORD

- Prayer – We pray for this community of believers, that as we strive to be living witnesses of Your goodness, we may grow in faith and charity through our support of TAO and those ministries and services it funds. WE PRAY TO THE LORD
- Prayer – We pray that we will use the TAO appeal as an opportunity to come together with those in our parish and throughout the diocese as stewards committed to building up God’s kingdom through faith and charitable works. WE PRAY TO THE LORD
- Prayer – We pray for the destitute of our diocese, both in life’s necessities and faith, that they may feel God’s compassion through each one of us as our gifts to Together as One support the programs that provide for their needs. WE PRAY TO THE LORD
- Prayer - We pray that we may respond generously to Together as One as faithful stewards of the gifts God has entrusted to us; WE PRAY TO THE LORD
- Prayer – We give thanks for the generosity of (insert parish) parishioners who have contributed to Together as One. May their example of stewardship lead others to respond; WE PRAY TO THE LORD
- Prayer – May we recognize the gifts God has provided us and express our gratitude through stewardship to our parish and the diocese; WE PRAY TO THE LORD
- Prayer – We pray that Together as One may be successful here at (insert parish), and that our response may reflect our commitment to support the work of the church; WE PRAY TO THE LORD
- Prayer – We pray that our good and gracious God will continue to bless the Diocese of Sioux City; WE PRAY TO THE LORD
- Prayer – We pray that we may prayerfully consider how we can best use our financial and spiritual resources to further the mission of Jesus Christ, not only in our parish but throughout the Diocese. WE PRAY TO THE LORD
- Prayer - We pray that we may show generosity and love for one another by sharing our financial gifts for the good of the whole Church in the TAO annual appeal. WE PRAY TO THE LORD



# Together as One

## Lay Leader Witness Talk

### Goals

The Lay Leader Witness Talk brings more awareness to the programs and ministries supported by Together as One in parishes across the diocese. The more awareness we bring to these programs and ministries; the better people will understand the impact of their support of the annual appeal. Thank you for accepting this important responsibility. The goals of this talk are to share with parishes:

- Your personal experience with diocesan ministry as a parishioner
- Programs within your parish that are supported by the diocese
- Examples of how these programs are growing the pastoral vision and priorities within your parish
- The overall impact of the annual appeal
- The importance of being One Church and how the Journey of Faith helps us recognize this reality



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# Together as One

## Talk Outline 1

*An outline for your talk is provided below. Customize it as you need! Don't be afraid to share personal testimony – you are speaking about why Together as One is important to you personally as well the entire diocese!*

### Outline

#### I. Introduction

- a. Introduce yourself, your involvement in the parish, and how long you have been a parishioner
- b. Thank the congregation for the opportunity to be with them this morning/evening

#### II. Impact on Parish

- a. Share a personal story about how you, as a parishioner, are impacted by Together as One
- b. Give other examples of the direct or indirect impact the annual appeal has on your parish

#### III. Importance of TAO

- a. Mention the overall impact Together as One has in supporting the purpose of the diocese
- b. Together as One brings about unity within our diocese by working towards a common goal.

#### IV. The Ask/Thank You

- a. Ask all those in the congregation to join you in prayerfully considering making a gift to this year's annual appeal
- b. Include Scripture reference if preferred
- c. Thank them for their time and for their continued support of their parish and the diocese; their generosity makes a difference in the lives of countless people in their parish and across the diocese
- d. Thank the pastor for inviting you to speak this weekend

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# Together as One

## Talk Outline 2

*An outline for your talk is provided below. Customize it as you need! Don't be afraid to share personal testimony – you are speaking about why Together as One is important to you personally as well the entire diocese!*

### Outline

1. Introduce yourself and your association with the parish. Use your own style, wording and delivery. Write out your talk and practice it.
2. Indicate how long you have been with your parish.
3. Describe your parish and diocesan involvement.
4. Acknowledge and thank donors who gave to last year's TAO.
5. Announce the goal for the year, your parish goal and focus on participation by everyone.
6. State why you give to the appeal. Relate a personal story of why you give and some examples of what your gift does and how it helps other people.
7. Explain how the appeal benefits your parish.
8. Complete your talk by making the "ask." Invite everyone to pledge to TAO. Explain how they will get a mailing with a pledge card they can mail back or put in the weekly offering. If they did not get a mailing, they can go online to the parish or diocesan website and make an online gift.
9. Thank the parishioners for their support and thank the pastor for the opportunity to talk.

What you are doing is stewardship. You are inviting people to participate in the ministry/stewardship of the Church. You should feel good about helping your parish and the Diocese of Sioux City. Be enthusiastic, friendly and convincing.

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# Together as One

## LAY LEADER SAMPLE TALK:

“Good morning. My name is \_\_\_\_ and I am a parishioner here at \_\_\_\_\_. Father (pastor) \_\_\_\_\_ has asked me to take a moment to speak today and I agreed — because I believe in the work of Together as One and I’m here to ask you to join me in my support....

I invite all of you to invest some of the gifts that God has given you—your energy, your prayers, and your resources—in this work to which God has called us. I know that we all believe in God’s call to serve others.

Gifts to the Annual Appeal support our Diocese ministries and services that educate our youth, counsel individuals and families and provide assistance to our parish and school parish offices. We all believe in passing on our Catholic faith to our children in our parishes and in our schools.

Each time good is accomplished in our parish or diocese through the Annual Appeal, we share in that good work. As the Apostle St. Paul declares: ‘You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity.’



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# Juntos como Uno

## Ejemplo de charla para un líder laico

"Buenos días,

Mi nombre es \_\_\_\_ y soy feligrés aquí en \_\_\_\_\_. El padre (pastor) \_\_\_\_\_ me pidió que me tomara un momento para hablar el día de hoy y acepté, porque creo en el trabajo de Juntos como Uno (Together As One) (TAO), y estoy aquí para pedirles que se unan a mí para apoyar....

Les hago la invitación a todos para invertir algunos de los dones que Dios les ha dado—su energía, sus oraciones y también de sus recursos—en esta obra a la que Dios nos ha llamado. Sé que todos creemos en el llamado de Dios a servir a los demás. Las donaciones a la Campaña Anual apoyan los ministerios y servicios de nuestra Diócesis que educan a nuestros jóvenes, asesoran a personas y familias y brindan asistencia a nuestras oficinas parroquiales y escolares. Todos creemos en transmitir nuestra fe católica a nuestros hijos en nuestras parroquias y escuelas.

Cada vez que se hace algo bueno en nuestra parroquia y Diócesis gracias a nuestro apoyo a la Campaña Anual, nos convertimos en parte de este buen trabajo. Como declara el apóstol San Pablo: “Serán enriquecidos en todos los sentidos por su gran generosidad”.



## Nuestra Colecta Diocesana Anual



# Together as One

## LAY LEADER SAMPLE TALK:

Hi, my name is Jane Doe, and I have been a parishioner here at \_\_\_\_\_ for 10 years. I grew up Catholic, attended Catholic schools, and have always appreciated what my faith has brought to me in my life through my wonderful family growing up, the husband and children I have now, and the friends I have made in my Catholic community here and throughout the Diocese.

Two years ago, I attended the Women's Conference for the first time. It was truly a life-changing experience on many levels, and it made me grow closer to God, but also to my parish life. I realized that I needed to "step it up," if I wanted more out of my faith. And, it worked. I began attending a weekly bible study and offering to read at mass on Sundays. I volunteered my time with various activities at church and through non-profits in our area like the Soup Kitchen, which I had never done before, and spent hours each week at adoration. Finally, I introduced myself to people at our parish that I hadn't met before, and found new friends in this community that I may not have found before, and our Catholic faith brought us together.

This year's theme for Our Diocesan Annual Appeal: Together as One has resonated with me more than any other appeal. We are all in this together, through good times and hard times, and this year has offered us some very hard times we were not anticipating. I thank God every day for my faith that keeps me strong in difficulty. We need to make our parish and Catholic church strong, not only for us now, but for our children as they grow up and have many choices that face them in their lives. I pray daily that our parish sends the strong message, that we are Together as One to my children so that they never decide that they want to leave their faith behind. I think we can all agree on that.

Today I come to you as your sister, your friend, your faith community member and prayerfully ask you to give to this year's appeal. We need a strong parish, and a strong Diocese. We need to come Together as One and share the gifts we have with the parish we love. If you haven't given in past years out of annoyance or bitterness, I ask you to put that aside this year and offer a gift of treasure. If you give every year, I ask you to consider increasing your gift this year.

Finally, I ask you to consider this question: What AM I doing to improve my faith life? What AM I doing to give back to this parish? What more can I do to help with time, talent or treasure? Do I pray more often for things I want than offering thanks for all that I have? How have I thanked my parish for continued ministry, even through the pandemic? And one more, Do I regularly thank God for all he has given me in my life with the treasures I have?

I promise you that if you do one more thing this year than you did last year to help our parish, it will make a big difference in your faith life. Thank you.



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A banner with a colorful geometric pattern in shades of red, orange, green, and purple. The text "Together as One" is written in a large, white, sans-serif font across the center.

# Together as One

## Sample Thank You Letters/Emails

November 2025

First and Last Name

Street Address

City, ST Zip Code

Dear salutation,

Thank you for your generous contribution to Together as One. By giving, you have chosen to make a meaningful difference for both our parish and our diocese. We deeply appreciate this expression of your Catholic faith in action.

Your gift supports diocesan ministries that nurture and teach our youth, serve the poor and marginalized, and strengthen the Church for future generations. Because of your generosity, we can continue to share Christ's love with so many throughout our Diocese.

In short, your gift is changing lives. Thank you once again for responding to the 2025-2026 Together as One Diocesan Annual Appeal, and may God abundantly bless you for your support.

Sincerely yours,

Pastor

A banner with a colorful geometric pattern in shades of red, orange, green, and purple. The text "Our Diocesan Annual Appeal" is written in a white, sans-serif font, and "#whywegive" is written in a smaller, white, sans-serif font below it.

Our Diocesan Annual Appeal  
#whywegive



# Together as One

November 2025

First and Last Name

Street Address

City, ST Zip Code

Dear \_\_\_\_\_,

Thank you for your gift to this year's Together as One Annual Appeal. Your generosity benefits thousands of Catholics across northwest Iowa. It has a direct and immediate impact in our parishes, schools, ministries and communities.

To date, our parish has received \$\_\_\_\_\_ in commitments from our parish community, including yours. Your prayers and support of the Annual Appeal help unite us Together as One.

Our Annual Appeal is truly a way for us to come together to transform our Church. Thank you again for supporting the 2025-2026 Together as One Annual Appeal and for your faithful stewardship of the gifts God has given you.

Sincerely,

Pastor



Our Diocesan Annual Appeal  
#whywegive