

Sample Lay Witness Talk

Good morning/afternoon/evening. My name is _____. My family and I have been parishioners at _____ for _____ years. I am pleased to help our parish, pastor _____ and diocese by speaking with you this weekend about God's Gift Appeal.

God's Gift Appeal is an opportunity for all of us to support the ministries of our diocesan church. Every February we are invited to support the mission of the Gospel by helping to fund the programs and ministries of the diocese.

I support God's Gift Appeal because _____. (This can be a personal reason or something unique about your parish. This will probably be the majority of your talk. If you are having trouble deciding, look over the section of this manual on diocesan/parish connections for ideas. Some suggestions to follow...

- One of the most visible things you support through the God's Gift Appeal is our vocations program. Fr. _____'s seminary education was paid for by the diocese and through the generous support of people just like us. (If your pastor is from the area or if you have a seminarian from your parish, bring that to people's attention)

- In our last church renovation the diocese loaned our parish the funds we needed to complete the project. The rate of interest on the loan was significantly lower than other financial institutions.

- The Catholic Education and Formation Office assisted our school with strategic planning to help us plan for our future.

In many ways we at _____ parish have benefited from the generosity of those who came before us. Now it is our turn to help the Church continue moving forward. We connect with the Church through our parish, but our parish could not exist if it were not for the diocese.

Please prayerfully consider making a generous donation to the God's Gift Appeal. Your gift will benefit not only the diocese but also our local parish and the other 128 parishes of our diocese.

Thank you for your time.