

# Homily Helper: 2026 Catholic Sharing Appeal

Brothers and sisters in Christ,

Each year, the Catholic Sharing Appeal reminds us that the Church is alive in people, parishes, and lives changed by Christ. This year, we are reminded that this is the Hour of Love—a moment when we are called to respond together, as one Body in Christ.

Even today, with only 25% of active families participating in the Catholic Sharing Appeal, the Church in our diocese is still able to do extraordinary good for souls in our diocese: forming priests and deacons, supporting marriages and families, educating our children, welcoming new Catholics, and caring for the poor. *Imagine what could happen if every family participated in the appeal!*

Please help me now as I ask some simple questions. If the question I ask is something you can relate to or have experienced, please raise your hand and keep it raised until all four questions have been asked. Children, please participate as well.

(Select any four questions)

- Have you known a priest who has given his life in service to the Church and is now retired?
- Are you concerned that our Church may not have enough priests for future generations?
- Do you know a permanent deacon who serves in this parish or another?
- Do you know a family member or friend who has left the Church and no longer practices the Catholic faith?

- Have you seen our brothers and sisters in Christ who are homeless or lack adequate food?
- Have you or someone you know participated in marriage encounter or enrichment programs?
- Have you attended RCIA in this parish or another within the diocese?
- Have your children or grandchildren attended a youth conference?
- Do you have children who attend or have attended religious education classes?

If you answered yes to any of these questions, then you or someone you know has benefited from the ministries supported by the Catholic Sharing Appeal.

Please look around at the number of hands raised. You may now lower your hands. Thank you.

There are many needs in our diocese: married couples seeking spiritual growth, seminarians preparing for service, parishes bringing the Word and sacraments to God's people, and children forming lifelong faith as disciples of Christ.

The Catholic Sharing Appeal is not just about money - it is about a shared commitment. Your participation itself is an act of love. Participation itself is an act of love. When every family participates, we say:

I believe in Christ and His Church.

I believe in the Mission of the Church.

I believe that I have a part to play in that Mission

**This is the Hour of Love. Let us answer together.**