# In Pew Presentation Sample – Fall Participation Focus

Earlier this year, I shared information about our new *Catholic Ministry Appeal*. Bishop Parkes also sent information through mail about n which ministries, programs and outreach efforts to the new appeal will benefit from your donations.

**As your pastor, I want to let you know that I support this appeal and the hope it provides for both our parish and for those it helps bring closer to Christ.**

This appeal provides the means to continue the mission that Christ has entrusted to us: to serve, to educate, to care for the poor, and to be a beacon of hope for all.

The ***Catholic Ministry Appeal*** is an invitation for us all to take an active role in supporting the Church beyond the borders of our parish. Through our appeal, we can support:

* (Use these or choose different ministries to focus on)
* 13,000 students and 1,300 educators in our 41 diocesan schools.
* 11,400 clients receiving 104,647 meals through Shelters of Hope and the Catholic Charities ministries of mercy.
* 75 retired priests who still provide services and support the faith life of parishioners in all 79 of our parishes and missions
* 12 men in formation for the Permanent Diaconate, as well as ongoing formation for our 115 active deacons and their wives
* protection for our children and vulnerable adults through the Safe Environment program which averages 5,000 fingerprint screenings and 7,500 trainings each year to diocesan, parish and school staff and volunteers

Right now, (name of parish/mission) has X households participating in the appeal at some level. That is X% of our parishioners. I offer heartfelt thanks to them for helping come this far.

Please know - It isn’t about the dollar amount that is contributed – what is important is participation.

That is our focus right now. I want to inspire and encourage those who haven’t made a gift to make one today.

Every person here can fully participate in the mission of our Catholic Church and the continued works of Jesus Christ by participating in the *Catholic Ministry Appeal*.

If you weren’t prepared to participate earlier this year, we ask you to make a gift or pledge of support to the essential ministries of our diocese. They are a true blessing to those served, fulfilling the physical, educational and spiritual needs of thousands that we could not serve ourselves on a parish level.

We are all invited to make a gift that demonstrates how as disciples we are living the gospel and sharing it with those we encounter. Now more than ever, it is vital for us to do what we can, when we can. To act as a people who put their faith in God and do good works in his name. I am asking you to make a commitment to the appeal today.

This appeal is based on equal sacrifice, not equal giving. There is no gift too small and every gift changes a life. Every gift can inspire hope for those we serve.

I cannot ask everyone to consider the same size gift. What I can do is ask is for all to pray and make a gift that is right for them.

For those who have never given, it is vital to understand participation matters. It is easy, when surrounded by so many people, to think that no one will notice if you don’t participate. But each gift makes a difference, and it is noticed.

At this point, I ask everyone who hasn’t made a gift to date to make one next few minutes.

For those of you who have already made a gift or pledge by sending in the commitment card that you received at home or by visiting the online giving page, I thank you for your generosity and your patience as we take a little time now to encourage others to participate.

If you did not bring your commitment card from home, pledge envelopes are located (*describe where you have the envelopes*) for your convenience.

Please fill in all the information on the envelope clearly. The envelope has a section with some options for monthly payments or a one-time gift. For example, 4 monthly payments of $25 equal a total pledge of $100.

Once you decide on the amount you want to give, fill out the giving information on the bottom left of the envelope – the area marked “Total Pledge/Amount Enclosed/Balance Due.”

A down payment on your commitment is not necessary or required. If you are able to make one, please do. If you can’t make a down payment, don’t let that stop you from making your commitment.

I am going to pause to give those who haven’t yet completed their commitment time to fill out their forms, while I do the same. (PAUSE AND FILL OUT AN ENVELOPE, EVEN IF YOU HAVE ALREADY DONE SO. THIS WILL ENCOURAGE YOUR PARISHIONERS TO DO THE SAME.)

At this time, I ask the Hospitality Ministers/Ushers to pick up all pledge envelopes, including those cards received at home that have been brought in today (or have parishioners bring them to the altar).

Thank you once again for listening with an open heart.