**Lay Speaker Remarks:** January 25

The Pastor may wish to have one person make these remarks, or he may split the duties among volunteers, parish staff, prominent parishioner, and others. The pastor may also request for a diocesan ministry speaker to attend some Masses this weekend to speak. If the duties are split, all speakers should meet and agree on a common set of points and the ways in which they will be covered. It is important that the announcements at each Mass are alike. **If possible, please do not ask the “regular” speakers to make these announcements.** It is best if they could stand out from the normal Pulpit announcements. The remarks should be no longer than 2-4 minutes.

Below are some ideas for the layperson to talk about during their remarks. Please select 2-3 ministries to highlight during each talk, based on which ministries the speaker is most passionate about. The speaker will naturally speak in a more compelling way when discussing these ministries. Please, use this document as a guide, and feel free to put it into your own words. *Develop your talk explaining why you give to the appeal, why the entire parish should participate, and call attention to ministries you are most passionate about.*

**Lay Volunteer Speaker Script:**

Recently, many of you received a mailing from Bishop Parkes asking you to consider supporting the 2026 Catholic Ministry Appeal. This year’s CMA theme is: “*Children of God.*” Scripture tells us that those who are called “Children of God,” are people who live out the boldness of the beatitudes; they are those who are peacemakers, they are those who are merciful, and they are those who are pure in heart.

Through the Catholic Ministry Appeal, we are given the opportunity each year to live out the beatitudes, to be “Children of God,” by sustaining the spiritual and charitable ministries, funded by the appeal.

Please reflect upon the vital ministries that are only made possible through the generosity our diocesan wide family and the blessings of almighty God. Won’t you give prayerful consideration to making a sacrificial commitment of support? If each parish family made a pledge of $X our parish would easily surpass the goal. We ALL can participate in the appeal, no matter how large or small our gift may be, we are joining together as one Body in Christ to support our Church and sustain the ministries that reach out to help thousands of people. One of the most powerful ways to give is by making a sustaining gift to the Catholic Ministry Appeal. Your sustaining commitment on a regular monthly basis allows our diocesan ministries to continue and to grow.

Finally, allow me to share with you three ministries that the appeal sustains:

*(Choose only 2-3 of these ministries that are relevant to your parish and speak briefly on why you are passionate about them.) More information here:* [*www.dosp.org/catholicministryappeal/ministriesfunded/*](https://www.dosp.org/catholicministryappeal/ministriesfunded/)

1. Seminarian Education & Support, & Promotion of Vocations
2. Diaconate Program & Formation
3. Bethany Center for Spiritual & Formation Development
4. Faith Formation & Missionary Discipleship
5. Marriage & Family Life
6. Ministry to Catholic Schools & Tuition Assistance Grants
7. Ministry to Multicultural Communities
8. Ministry to Youth & Young Adults
9. La Clinica Guadalupana & Medical Clinics Support
10. Pinellas Hope, Tampa Hope & Pasco County affordable housing of Catholic Charities of the Diocese of St. Petersburg
11. Prison Ministry

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As you have heard, the Catholic Ministry Appeal brings the beatitudes to thousands in our communities, some of whom may be sitting next to you at Mass each week. Please pray about your appeal commitment this week and consider how you may support the appeal to the most generous extent you are able. Thank you and God Bless you!