**2026 Catholic Ministry Appeal Homily Guide & Suggestions for Announcement Weekend (January 18)**

All priests (pastors and parochial vicars) are asked to preach about the Catholic Ministry Appeal at all masses during Announcement Weekend (January 18). In preparing their homilies, it is helpful to review the tabloid that will be inserted into the parish bulletins this weekend as well as the list of funded programs shown later in this manual.

Below are some thoughts which may be helpful for talking points as you develop your homily for Announcement Weekend (January 18).

* This year’s appeal theme is, “*Children of God.*” Parishioners should be encouraged to reflect upon the many gifts God has given to them, and that they can live out the beatitudes by helping so many people by sharing their gifts with increase to the Lord, out of love of God and neighbor. Supporting the appeal directly helps thousands of their neighbors.
* The appeal helps the less fortunate among us, provides spiritual and physical comfort and counsel to those in crisis, and inspires children, young adults, and families to embrace and nurture their Catholic faith.
* It is my hope that each parish family will participate by making a commitment to the appeal this year. Further, I ask you to pause and really reflect on how you could stretch a bit to make a TRULY sacrificial gift to this important appeal. There are a few generous donors in our diocese who have provided a matching gift opportunity that will match the amount of any first-time gift to the appeal as well as the amount increased from existing donors.
* The appeal presents us with an ideal opportunity for personal reflection. February 1 is Commitment Weekend for the Catholic Ministry Appeal, so I ask you to pray about supporting the appeal these next two weeks. We know there may be families who are not able to donate to the CMA this year. However, if your circumstances allow, please give prayerful consideration to making a sacrificial commitment to the CMA this year. You might possibly even make up for someone who can’t make a gift.
* I greatly encourage all to consider a sustaining gift to the Catholic Ministry Appeal this year. A sustaining gift is one that continues on a monthly basis, until you ask to stop. This kind of gifts allows the ministries that the appeal supports to continue their vital works of mercy and to grow.
* The appeal presents an opportunity to think about the fact that everything we have and everything that we are is given to us by God. As you have heard many times before, we are asked to increase God’s gifts and to return a portion of them for the work of His Church. Let your commitment to the CMA be an outward sign of your charity and compassion for others.
* The CMA sustains and fosters the vocations of our diocesan seminarians. We are blessed with young men who are exploring their vocation to the priesthood. Let us ensure that the next generation of priests from our diocese have everything they need to God willing be ordained priests.

**End with:** “Now, let us together view a message from Bishop Parkes regarding the 2026 Catholic Ministry Appeal…”