

HOMILY TALKING POINTS

CATHOLIC CHARITIES IN-PEW APPEAL WEEKEND

To include Catholic Charities based on the Gospel (Lk.9: 28b-36) for March 3-4, 2007, consider:

- Peter is very excited about the prospect of staying in the holy presence of the prophets. He wants to erect tents and spend time learning and soaking up the wisdom of Moses and Elijah. God recognizes, however, that there is work to be done, and it is not done merely by sitting and listening and enjoying the company of the prophets. In telling the apostles to listen to His chosen Son, God asks the disciples not to stay on the mountain but to come down, to live among the people and serve them.

- Like the apostles, Jesus calls us to serve others. Catholic Charities is our collective means to help our neighbors in need and to support God's kingdom here on earth. [see facts on Catholic Charities below]
 - Catholic Charities is celebrating its 96th year of service to the community.
 - Catholic Charities serves the eight-counties of the Diocese of Cleveland (Ashland, Cuyahoga, Geauga, Lake, Lorain, Medina, Summit, and Wayne).
 - Catholic Charities offers 143 distinct programs and services at 64 locations around Northeast Ohio.
 - Every dollar donated to the Catholic Charities Annual Appeal pays for services right here in our community – services for our neighbors in need. These programs are available to parishioners in each of the 233 parishes.
 - Proper stewardship of your gift is given high priority. Catholic Charities rates well above the “industry standard” for charities nationwide in the amount per dollar that goes directly to services vs. administrative costs.
 - There are approximately 2.9 million people in the Diocese. Nearly one-third are Catholic, but Catholic Charities’ programs serve *everyone*, regardless of race, color, creed, religion or disability. We do so because Christ taught us to “Love thy neighbor as thyself.”
 - Today you will find an envelope in your pew. Please take a few minutes to complete your pledge to our collective Catholic charity that does so much good. Whether it’s a homeless person in the inner city who needs a hot meal; a suburban teenager battling drug addiction; or a senior citizen who needs a safe, comfortable place to live among friends, Catholic Charities is there to help. Please be generous and help us help your neighbors in need.