

IN-PEW PRESENTATION SCRIPT FOR COMMITMENT WEEKEND

To be used on Commitment Weekend after the Bishop's recorded homily is played

Good morning. As your Pastor, I want to thank all of you who have already given this year to the Catholic Charities Annual Appeal, as well as those who have given in past years. I can assure you that the funds you gave have helped to provide valuable programs and services throughout our Diocese. Many of these ministries and services have helped our parish as well.

When you give to Catholic Charities, you are, very directly, helping to bring important assistance to tens of thousands of people, many of whom are in desperate need of help.

Each of us is called to share his or her gifts in support of the Church. We must first support our parish and then our Diocese and the Church throughout the world. A gift to Catholic Charities is a very effective way to extend our charitable giving beyond our parish boundaries.

Over recent weeks you have likely heard about the importance of this Appeal. It is something that I believe each of us should support.

At this time, I ask one member of each household to raise your hand so that we can give you a pledge envelope and a pencil.

(Pause and make sure that everyone has received a pledge envelope and pencil. Pay special attention to people who are standing and in the cry room or choir loft. Once everyone has an envelope, continue with the script.)

Now, please open the flap and find the pledge form and the pencil.

(Pause and wait until about half of those participating are looking back at you.)

Print your first name and, if you are married, your spouse's first name, and your last name on the top line.

(Pause and wait until about half of those participating are looking back at you.)

Please print your complete street address.

(Pause as above)

Please print your city, state and zip code.

(Pause as above)

Please print your area code and phone number and email address on the next line.

(Pause as above)

Please note the name of our parish on the line provided, so that we will receive the proper credit for your contribution.

(Pause as above)

Your pledge will be billed over ten months and there is no need to provide a down payment today unless you wish to do so.

(Pause as above)

If you have already contributed by mail, please check that box at the bottom of the form and do not fill out any financial commitment information.

(Pause as above)

If you have not given by mail, please check the amount of your pledge in the space provided. In the event that you wish to contribute an amount other than the ones indicated, please check the "Other" box and indicate the full amount of your pledge on the blank line.

(Pause as above)

Now, please look at the lines provided on the pledge envelope and indicate the total amount that you pledge on the first line.

In the event that you are making a down payment, write the amount of the down payment in the next box.

Subtract the down payment from the full amount of your pledge and note the unpaid balance on the line provided.

(Pause as above)

In the event that you wish to use your credit card, please complete the appropriate information on the pledge card. Then, please check one of the two boxes that indicate if you want your entire pledge billed to your credit card at once or over 10 equal monthly payments.

(Pause 5 seconds)

If you do not wish to contribute, please check the appropriate box that indicates that you will not be making a gift at this time.

(Pause 5 seconds)

We will now collect your pledge envelopes.

On behalf of Bishop Lennon and myself, but most especially on behalf of those who will benefit from your contributions, I thank you for your gift to the Catholic Charities Annual Appeal.

May God bless you.