



## Talking Points for Idaho Catholic Appeal

- ✓ Reflect on the call given to each of us in Baptism to return out of gratitude a generous portion of time, talent, and money so that Christ's mission may continue.
- ✓ Emphasize the joy that comes to those who first give to God their time, talent, and treasure as a way of expressing their gratitude and trust.
- ✓ List the ministries that are supported by the Idaho Catholic Appeal.
- ✓ Share scriptural references to giving.
- ✓ Talk about your own personal commitment to giving and the Idaho Catholic Appeal.
- ✓ Remind parishioners that your church will receive back all funds collected over 110% of your parish goal.
- ✓ Talk about your parish fundraising goal and what the parish will do with the parish share.
- ✓ Emphasize that the gift can be paid over a 10 or 12-month period.
- ✓ Remind parishioners that their gift is tax-deductible.
- ✓ Remind donors that their contributions are especially needed because their support helps continue the more than 20 vital ministries and programs that serve the Church in Idaho.
- ✓ Emphasize that as one of the main sources of funding for diocesan ministries, a healthy and vibrant appeal, is essential for the Church to fulfill her spiritual mission, a mission whose scope and range is beyond the ability of any single parish.
- ✓ Remind parishioners that the appeal offers each Catholic the voluntary opportunity to make a conscious decision to be involved in the work of the Church beyond one's parish boundaries. It is the work that Christ has given to us.
- ✓ Review some of the accomplishments in the diocese and parish as a result of giving to the Idaho Catholic Appeal in prior years. Here are just a few samples of diocesan ministry accomplishments.
  - ⊕ Last year, the Diocese ordained four new permanent deacons from the **Deacon and Lay Ministries Program**.

- ⊕ This year, we anticipate that there will be as many as 14 men in various stages of formation for the priesthood. The cost of their preparation depends on our contributions to the Idaho Catholic Appeal.
- ⊕ The **Campus Ministries** offer programs and services to more than 11,000 Catholic college students across the state.
- ⊕ The **Catholic Schools Office** oversaw the education of over 4,000 students in our 15 elementary schools and two high schools in our Diocese.
- ⊕ There are 40 men and women participating representing all six deaneries in Idaho, who are in the **Deacon and Lay Ministries Formation Program**.
- ⊕ More than 50 people have been in dialogue about **vocations** in our Diocese.
- ⊕ The **Catechesis Office** forms and supports more than 100 catechetical leaders.
- ⊕ Last year, the **Tribunal/Canonical Affairs Office** assisted more than 500 individuals with marriage cases.
- ⊕ The **Youth and Young Adult** provides the annual Idaho Catholic Youth Convention that was attended by more than 1,400 teens and 200 adult chaperones. Approximately 50 youth from this convention, who are considering a vocation with the church, came forward for a special blessing from the **Seminarian and Vocations** ministry. They also provide conferences for over 200 young adults.
- ⊕ Last year, **Catholic Charities of Idaho** served over 7,000 people.
- ⊕ Last year, **Catholic Charities of Idaho** provided over 200 counseling sessions to strengthen individuals, couples, and families
- ⊕ Last year, **Catholic Charities of Idaho** provided parenting, financial literacy, and English Language Learner classes to 100s of individuals.
- ⊕ More than 11,000 children and adolescents participate in parish religious education programs whose catechetists are formed and supported by the **Catechesis Office** through trainings, workshops, retreats, and one-on-one consultations.
- ⊕ Last year, **Catholic Charities of Idaho** provided before and after school programs to youth.
- ⊕ The **Catechesis Office** provides training and resources to parish ministers through the annual Catholic Educators Conference that is usually attended by more than 600 parish and school leaders from our diocese.
- ⊕ **Catholic Charities of Idaho** provided resources and referral information to more than 1,500 people last year.
- ⊕ The **Office of Cultural Ministries** works to strengthen Hispanic, Native American and other cultural groups of Catholics across Idaho. This ministry promotes awareness building for all Catholics through training and education, and provides opportunities for cross-cultural relationship building at the parish, deanery & diocesan levels. Across Idaho, 45 Masses are offered in Spanish on weekends and as many as 8 other languages. The Deacon & Lay Ministry Formation program is also offered in Spanish.
- ⊕ Over 1,000 men and women incarcerated in Idaho attend the **Catholic Prison Ministry** services provided by volunteer priests and over 100 lay men and women from our parishes.

- ⊕ Diocese of Boise has 26 **retired priests** who have dedicated their lives in service to the Church of Idaho. Many of these are in their late 70's and 80's. The Diocese tries hard to attend to priests during their retirement years. A portion of the ICA, along with contributions by the parishes, goes into the Priest Retirement Fund each year to help fund their retirement.
- ⊕ The Diocese of Boise depends on the Idaho Catholic Appeal to pay the medical insurance premiums for **retired priests** along with a substantial amount of their medical care as they grow older. Just as medical costs continue to escalate across the country, the diocese is also challenged with meeting increasing medical costs, especially as more priests are reaching the retirement age of 70.
- ⊕ Since 2000, **Catholic Charities of Idaho** has served over 25,000 individuals, engaged over 1,000 volunteers, and established numerous community partnerships across the state.
- ⊕ **Nazareth Retreat Center** welcomed nearly 4,000 individuals seeking a quiet place to reflect, study, and pray.
- ⊕ The **Marriage and Family Life Office** serves as a resource center for our parishes to address marriage and family life issues. This year, more than 80 couples celebrated their marriage with Bishop Peter at a Wedding Jubilee Mass.

## Sample Presentation

The Church has always depended on sacrifices from its members to train clergy, provide formation for the laity, educate our youth, and care for the troubled and those in need. The Idaho Catholic Appeal is an important way for each of us to contribute to the work of the Church in our diocese. Through our gifts to the Appeal, we truly respond to the needs of the least among us and in turn serve Jesus himself.

As your Pastor, I am asking for your generous support once again this year. The Idaho Catholic Appeal helps fund many varied ministries and services within our diocese. These worthy ministries and services support our diocesan efforts in the areas of education and formation, care of our priests, pastoral services, evangelization, social services, and outreach to families and individuals in need.

As in previous years, each parish has been assigned a portion of the total Appeal goal. Our parish responsibility for the 2017 Annual Appeal is \$\_\_\_\_\_ and we will receive back all funds collected over 110% of this goal.

This year's scripture passage for the Idaho Catholic Appeal is:

“Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat [or drink], or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing?” Matthew 6:25

This passage and the feather story Bishop Peter shared in his letter and the video were chosen, because it reminds us that God is all around caring for us and **Our Trust is in the Lord**. We “see” God at work daily in our lives and in our parishes and schools through the many ministries and services supported by the Idaho Catholic Appeal.

Let us therefore join with Bishop Peter Christensen, pray for the success of the 2017 Idaho Catholic Appeal, and make a sacrificial gift based upon our means. In anticipation of your pledged gift this year, I offer you my heartfelt thanks.