

Pastor's Kickoff Pulpit Message

To be read **October 16, 17, 2021**
(Please feel free to edit as you see fit)
(Can be read by BAA Executive member)

Good morning (evening). I am _____ and I am here to ask once again for your support in this year's Bishop's Annual Appeal.

The theme of this year's Appeal is God is doing New Things. It is important to remember that our generosity toward Diocesan ministries offers us a special opportunity to answer the Lord's call in ways we could never think of doing on our own. Responding to a Bishop's requests for supporting these ministries renews our personal commitment to participate more fully as good stewards in Christ's mission for the Church. We are, indeed, the Body of Christ, and through our support of diocesan-funded ministries, programs and services, we are able to impact the lives of hundreds, perhaps thousands of people in our diocese. Each and every parish benefits from the Bishop's Annual Appeal. Here, in our parish, we have also experienced many of God's blessings. *(It is important to insert some local blessings – the number of baptisms, weddings or children in catechism, the arrival of a new pastor or parish staff, a parish anniversary, etc.)*

Because our faith journeys are very personal, we may not often hear about how lives are changed by our gifts. But I hope that you know that the education of every diocesan priest ordained since 1984 has been paid for by the Bishop's Annual Appeal. Every parish offering catechism and sacramental preparation receives support, guidance and programming because of the Bishop's Annual Appeal. Parishioners from across the diocese have taken part in Adult Faith Enrichment, now called Adult Faith Formation. When loved ones are in hospital in Saskatoon or people are in prison, the Appeal brings the Church to them.

Everything we have is a gift from God. Gifts are meant to keep moving, from one person to the next. Our parish goal this year is _____. I invite you to take some time to prayerfully consider what you can offer to this year's Bishop's Annual Appeal. No amount is too small to offer the gift of faith in someone else's life. Just as Jesus multiplied the loaves and fish to feed the five thousand, God takes whatever we offer and uses it to bless innumerable lives in our diocese.

(Insert local details – bake sale date, collection Sunday details, etc.).

Thank you so much for your time and prayerful support of the Bishop's Annual Appeal. If you have any questions, I would be very happy to talk with you after Mass.