

## Sample Lay Witness Talk

Lay witness for the **Sharing in Ministry** Bishop's Annual Appeal is a message to fellow parishioners about giving in gratitude for what God has given to them. This witness can encourage and increase the response from parishioners. Refer to Tips for Lay Witness and the Case for Support in this manual for assistance in preparing your comments.

### Sample Remarks

Good morning/afternoon/evening. My name is \_\_\_\_\_. I/My family have been a parishioner(s) in this parish for \_\_\_\_\_ years. I/We have been part of numerous ministries and programs during this time, including \_\_\_\_\_. I am pleased to be able to assist Bishop Michael Olson, and our pastor \_\_\_\_\_ this weekend by speaking with you about the 2014 **Sharing in Ministry** Bishop's Annual Appeal.

**Sharing in Ministry** is an opportunity to impact the ministries of our diocesan Church through the generous support of our parishes and parishioners. Once a year, we are invited to make a commitment to contribute to the work of diocesan programs and ministries which provide services that no one parish could provide on its own. This effort is a means by which we can all work together to care for our local Church by sharing the gifts God has given us.

Since 1983, \$60 million has been contributed to **Sharing in Ministry** to help support the needs of our diocese, which has grown to more than 700,000 Catholics and 90,000 households in 91 parishes and missions throughout the 28 counties. This is a tremendous tribute to the generosity and stewardship commitment of our people.

A letter from Bishop Olson about the appeal was recently mailed to all households in the diocese. It included a pledge form for your use. *(Here is where you could insert some comments about how one or more of the ministries and/or programs listed in the case for support has touched your life, the life of someone you know or your parish life.)*

As it says in the Gospel of Matthew 18:20, "Where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I in their midst." We need the generosity of all parishioners to help our diocesan Church and our local parishes. While our current world, national and local economic situation has each of us looking at certain financial realities, now more than ever there are individuals and families who need our support.

Bishop Olson is inviting you to join him in making a pledge to **Sharing in Ministry** this year. Every gift to the appeal is important and shows your gratitude to God for His many blessings. Your gifts will be credited to the parish goal of \$ \_\_\_\_\_. To assist with local parish needs, 10% of all funds raised up to the parish goal and 50% of everything contributed over the goal will be returned to the parish.

Please prayerfully consider your pledge to the appeal, complete the form and return it in the parish offertory collection or the mail for next weekend's Commitment Weekend. You can also make your gift online at [www.advancementfoundation.org](http://www.advancementfoundation.org).

*(If comfortable for you, briefly tell the people why you are making a gift to **Sharing in Ministry**.)* Thank you for your generosity. God bless you.