

# Pastor's Talking Points

As part of your pulpit talk in support of the Bishop's Annual Appeal, we ask that the principal celebrant at every mass **include one or more** of these talking points listed below:

- Our parish-wide annual effort on behalf of the Bishop's Annual Appeal is about to begin. Our parish goal for the 2017 Appeal is \$\_\_\_\_\_.
- The advance mail campaign for our Diocese will begin on Monday, April 24th. Each of you should be receiving a letter in the mail from the Bishop asking for your gift/commitment to support the ministries of the Diocese of Baker. It is preferred that pledges be mailed with the envelope provided to avoid additional administrative expenses.
- A direct mail component has been incorporated into the Bishop's Annual Appeal so that all parishioners will have the opportunity to support the Bishop's Appeal. The direct mail component will allow parishioners that are unable to attend Mass the opportunity to contribute to the Bishop's Appeal.
- Please give prayerful consideration to your gift or commitment. The pledge cards may be mailed to the Diocese or may be brought to the parish on Commitment Weekend (May 20/21) and placed in the collection basket.
- Express gratitude to those parishioners who have already responded to the 2017 Bishop's Appeal. If your parish reached its Appeal goal last year, thank and acknowledge parishioners for this accomplishment and express optimism for this year's Appeal. If your parish did not reach its Appeal goal, acknowledge other positive aspects such as participation percentage, volunteer efforts, etc...followed by words of encouragement that the parish goal may be within reach this year.
- Remind parishioners that they are stewards of their time, talent and treasure that God has given each of us. Please encourage everyone to share a portion of his or her treasure through a gift pledge to the 2016 Appeal.
- Assure parishioners that their donations will be used exclusively to support the ministries, programs and services outlined in the promotional materials.
- Please take the Appeal Bulletin Insert with you when leaving Mass today and reflect upon its content. I would ask that you join me in prayer for the success of our efforts in the 2017 Bishop's Annual Appeal. (see next page).

# The Bishop's Appeal Helps Parishes

Here are some questions to consider. If you answer yes to any of the following, you have benefited from the generosity of the thousands of donors who help our parishes continue to grow and flourish.

1. Have your RCIA team members attended training for Christian Initiation sponsored by the Office of Evangelization and Catechesis?
2. Have any of your lay leaders such as catechists and youth ministers attended seminars, educational courses, workshops or conferences?
3. Has your parish received catechetical materials for parishes in need?
4. Has anyone in your parish been in the hospital and had a visit from a Catholic Chaplain?
5. Has any couple in your parish attended marriage preparation and marriage enrichment retreats?
6. Have any of your teens attended Youth Summer Camps, Retreats or other events for youth?
7. Do you have a priest at your parish who received assistance through the Seminary Fund during their seminarian education?
8. Is your present pastor nearing retirement age and will your parish need a priest in the near future?
9. Has a priest in your parish retired and now receives support from the Priest Health & Retirement Fund?
10. Does your parish support a Catholic School?
11. Do your parishioners read The Diocesan Chronicle newsletter, listen to KFDS-LP Catholic Radio or visit the Diocesan Website to stay informed?
12. Does your parish have adults and youth involved with the Religious Education program who have received training or educational materials on providing a safe environment for our children?
13. Have you benefited from programs online via FORMED.org?
14. Has your parish received a workshop or training in Evangelization, Liturgy, Sacramental Preparation, or other Pastoral Services?