**2018 Diocesan Services Appeal**

**Commitment Presenter Talk**

**Recommended for Commitment Weekend, April 21 & 22**

On Commitment Weekend it is necessary to have a DSA parish leader present the request to parishioners for their DSA gift commitment.

Often given by the DSA chairperson, deacon, or other DSA volunteer, the talk will generally address the nuts and bolts of the gift decision and submission process.

The talk should take place immediately following the Bishop’s DSA video or audio message is played - and immediately before the collection of pledge envelopes. This series of activities may occur either after the homily or after communion – depending on the parish’s protocol.

The commitment presenter should be an individual who relates well to other parishioners, feels comfortable speaking to a group to request their gift commitments, understands the pledge form and gift process, and is enthusiastic about the mission.

NOTE: The commitment presenter needs to meet with the pastor to discuss the pastor’s expectations for this talk. We suggest that the same commitment presenter(s) speak at all Masses on the same weekend. This will ensure a consistent message at all Masses and will make it easier to coordinate.

**Sample script provided below:**

“My name is and it is my pleasure to speak to you today about our 2018 Diocesan Services Appeal. I am excited by Bishop Boyea’s call to “Go and Announce the Gospel of the Lord.” I know that my contribution to DSA is one way that I can personally participate in the evangelizing and social ministries of the wider Church. Along with Bishop Boyea, and Fr. (your pastor name), I invite you to be generous in your support for this annual appeal. The participation of all our parishioners will assure a strong result and meaningful impact for the good of our parish and the wider Church.

This weekend we are conducting DSA Commitment Weekend and I am here to explain and assist with the gift decision and submission process. I hope you have given this invitation your prayerful consideration, because I am here to invite you to make a decision of faith and to submit your best gift commitment today.

At the end of each pew you will find a number of gift envelopes and pencils. Please pass the envelopes and pencils down the pew to each individual or family. [You may need to amend this wording to reflect the process of distributing the gift envelopes to your parishioners.]

Please take the pencil and pledge card at this time. You will find that the envelope has a flap with a two-sided gift form. One side is titled “Cash or Check Pledge Form” and the other side is titled “Credit Card or EFT Pledge Form.” Please select how you would like to fulfill your gift and complete the appropriate side of the gift form. Start by clearly printing your own name and address, followed by your preferred phone and email address. Then, be certain to provide your parish name. This will assure that our parish is credited for your gift. Should we surpass our parish goal of $ , 50% of the contributions above our goal amount will be returned to our parish. **(Pause)**

Next please enter your total gift commitment. Some of us can give less and some more in line with the financial gifts with which God has graced us as the stewards of His Holy Catholic Church. The most important thing, is that we all participate as we all share in the health and well-being of our parish and the wider Church.

For those paying with cash or check you may submit your gift today, you may select the months in which you wish to receive a pledge reminder, or you may make an initial payment today and select the months in which you will make payments to fulfill your pledge. For example a $50 payment today, and 9 additional monthly payments may be selected to complete a total gift commitment of $500. If you are writing a check, please make it payable to “Your Parish Name/DSA”. **(Pause)**

For those paying by Credit Card or who wish to have payments drawn directly from a bank account, please enter your gift commitment on the pledge form today. In the past we have collected personal account information on these pledge forms, but for the security of your personal financial information we are no longer collecting that information in writing. Rather, we invite you to fulfill your commitment online at www.dioceseoflansing.org. You will be able to select the amount and frequency of payments according to your preference when completing the online gift form. For those who select this option, please provide your email address. A message will be sent with a link to the online giving page.

When you are finished, you may carefully tear off the gift form flap at the perforation and put it into the envelope along with any payment you choose to enclose. Please seal the envelope and place it in the offertory collection in a few minutes [or explain how the envelopes will be collected]. We will continue to accept your pledge envelopes and gifts through our weekly collection or in the parish office in the weeks to come.

We will also keep you informed of our progress toward our parish goal which we will achieve and can far surpass if we unite in support with our fellow Catholics throughout the diocese.

Thank you for your faithful generosity!”