**2020 Diocesan Services Appeal**

**Homily Helps**

**Recommended for Commitment Weekend, March 7 & 8**

**Alternatively for Announcement Weekend, February 29 & March 1**

It is important for the pastor to endorse the DSA and inspire the faithful to participate with his own comments as part of or prior to the Commitment Talk on March 7 & 8 at which time people are asked to make their gift commitments and complete and submit the pledge envelopes.

It is important for the pastor to personally let his parishioners know that he has made his gift to the appeal and why he has done so. This must be done in a sincere manner and not one that indicates any compulsion to do so.

**Following are some remarks for the pastor to consider in preparing his thoughts and comments:**

* “Happy the one who trusts in the Lord.” This scripture text from the Book of Proverbs affirms a fundamental teaching of the Catholic Church – only in God will we find the truth and happiness that we seek, the happiness that we were made for.

Our Diocesan Services Appeal is an opportunity to participate personally in the service and care provided through the many good works of the Catholic Church. DSA contributions are put to work, right away, in a multitude of ministries and spiritual activities to offer direct assistance to individuals and families, to our parishes and schools.

* DSA is about so much more than money. DSA helps us all, as donors and beneficiaries, to move along the path of discipleship. Together, we can follow the Lord and witness to the salvation given to us in Jesus Christ.

How can we move along the path of discipleship together?

We can support our seminarians to get the best training they can have to be good and holy leaders of our church. We can care for our senior priests who have dedicated a life of service to the church and its people.

We can serve those people who are helping God’s people who are most in need. When can assure that Catholic Charities has the resources required to make a difference in their lives, to provide the hope and help they need.

We can make sure that our parish staff and parish schools have professional resources available. We can’t do everything on our own here at parish. We need the expertise of worship, and finance, and legal, and human resources professionals at the diocese that serve and support our parish ministries and operations.

Let’s join together to make sure our seminarians, our clergy, our Catholic Charities workers, and our parish staff, catechists and educators and all who are engaged in the life of the church have the resources they need to do their jobs well, and help us form a strong Catholic community of disciples here at parish.

* Perhaps you can give a gift that really represents giving something of your substance. Perhaps you can give a gift that exemplifies your trust in the Lord, and brings you happiness.

I have made my gift commitment and it feels good to do so. I have contributed because . I hope you feel as good about make your gift decision as I do.

* What I’d really love is for us as a parish to show a really high percentage of participation. I want to beat every other parish in the diocese. I want to have the highest percentage of parishioners who participate in the annual appeal. We would know then, that we truly trust in the Lord. So please commit to something and help us move along a path of discipleship together.
* I am grateful beyond words for the dedication, commitment, and sacrifice of the people of this parish to engage in the many evangelizing and social ministries of our wider Church. May you be blessed for all that you do for one another.

**If you feel it necessary or helpful – assure your people that DSA funds have not been nor will be used for costs related to abuse. Nor are DSA funds diverted to help pay abuse costs in other dioceses.**