

# Transformed by your LOVE



**Catholic  
Charities**  
DIOCESE OF CLEVELAND

2024  
APPEAL

*"Addiction has had a devastating impact on the lives of the people in our churches and communities. It has touched the very hearts and souls of our parishioners in the pews and the people living in our communities; it has affected men and women of every age, profession and state of life."*

– Bishop Malesic

## Follow-Up In-Pew Appeal Weekend

### JUNE 1-2 IN-PEW SCRIPT

#### Introduction

This weekend, we will offer another opportunity to support Catholic Charities here in our Diocese. This is a follow-up to our February weekend, where I shared the impact of the important work that we are supporting through the Appeal. All donations to the follow-up appeal will be invested in our substance use treatment programs and facilities. Addiction to drugs and alcohol has continued to be a problem in our society. With your donation, you may be giving someone the chance they need that leads them to recovery.

All donations to this second appeal will go towards a three-legged strategy put together by Catholic Charities to help ease the suffering and cure those struggling with addiction.

Ohio remains among the national leaders in drug overdose deaths. The trend has continued since the last in-pew appeal in 2018 that focused on this addiction epidemic. The number of deaths from drug overdose deaths continued to rise from 2018 through 2021 (the last year full statewide data is available).

- Drug overdose deaths in.... 2018 were 3,853 people; 2019 were 4,107 people; 2020 were 5,021 people; 2021 were 5,210 people (up 27% from 2019)

This is not a problem we can solve overnight. But with a strong prevention and education plan, expansion of access to services in the 8 counties, and a focus on outpatient counseling, it is a noble cause to support. We hope these three approaches can save those among us looking to be Transformed by Your Love today.

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**Today, I am asking you to provide Transformation to some of our very troubled brothers and sisters in need. If you have already given, please consider giving again to support these needed programs throughout the Diocese of Cleveland.**

*(Call on volunteers/ushers to pass out the envelopes)*

**I now ask one member of each household to take a pledge envelope and together we will all complete the pledge form. This will only take a few minutes.**

*(Pause and make sure that everyone has received a pledge envelope and pencil. Pay special attention to people who are standing and in the cry room or choir loft. Once everyone has an envelope, continue with the script.)*

**Now, please open the flap and remove the pencil. Remember; do not place the pencil back into the envelope when you are finished.**

*(Pause and wait until about half of those participating are looking back at you.)*

**Please print your first name, last name, and if married, your spouse's name on the top line.**

*(Pause)*

**Next, please print your complete street address and indicate if this is a new address.**

*(Pause)*

**Please print your telephone number, indicating if it is a cell or home phone, and add your email.**

*(Pause)*

**Now, please print our parish name and city.**

*(Pause)*

**If you do not want to give to the Appeal today, check that box now.**

*(Pause)*

**Please go to the right side of the envelope and indicate your pledge amount, knowing that you can make your payments in equal installments through Dec. 31<sup>st</sup>. If you wish to contribute an amount other than the ones indicated, please check the "Other" box and indicate the full amount of your pledge on the blank line.**

*(Pause)*

**Now, please look at the boxes under your pledge amount and indicate the total amount that you pledged in the first box.**

**In the second box, you can indicate that amount that you wish to enclose toward your pledge. There is no need to provide a down payment today unless you wish to do so. You will receive monthly reminder statements until your pledge is paid in full.**

*(Pause)*

**If you wish to use your credit card, please go to the section at the bottom left of the pledge form and indicate if you want your total pledge amount to be charged in a single payment, if you want Catholic Charities to set up equal, automatic monthly charge payments and if you want this monthly charge to become a recurring monthly gift.**

**Complete the additional credit card information, being sure to include the expiration date, the 3-digit security code, and don't forget to sign your name.**

*(Pause)*

**Keeping the pencil separate, please tear off the pledge form, insert it into the envelope with your check, if applicable, and seal the envelope. Now, please place the envelopes and pencils in the basket as it comes to you.**

**On behalf of Bishop Malesic and myself, but most of all, on behalf of those who will benefit from the treatment they receive for their substance use disorder, thank you for your gift to the Catholic Charities 2024 Appeal.**

**May God bless you.**