

## IN-PEW SCRIPT

*To be presented by the Pastor on In-Pew Weekend*

*Good morning/evening.* As your pastor, I want to personally thank you for your past generous support for the mission of the Church through the Catholic Charities Appeal. Catholic Charities in Northeast Ohio is one of the oldest and largest Catholic Charities networks in the United States, serving over 425,000 people each year through 150 services and 60 locations in the eight counties of our Diocese. For more than 110 years, Catholic Charities has provided help and created hope for those who are most vulnerable and most in need, especially now during the health crisis of the past few years.

God calls each of us to share the gifts that He has provided us in support of the Church. As Catholics, we must first support our parish, then our Diocese, and the Church throughout the world. The Catholic Charities Appeal is a very effective way to support ministries outside of our parish boundaries — ministries that serve people who are most in need here in our community and throughout our diocese.

The theme for the 2023 Catholic Charities Appeal — **A time to heal. A time to help.** — reminds us that plenty of people are still struggling in Northeast Ohio, and as we try to heal from a two-year pandemic, it is also time to help those who did not fare as well.

The Catholic Charities Appeal is an invitation for every Catholic in the Diocese of Cleveland to unite with joy and gratitude for the gifts God has given and to reach out in love to those who are less fortunate. Today, I am asking you to open your hands and hearts to embrace the poor, just as Jesus did. I am asking you to prayerfully consider making a gift to this year's Catholic Charities Appeal.

I would be so pleased if we could achieve 100% participation from our parish in this year's Appeal. Giving has a profound meaning for us as Catholics. We understand the importance of giving in return to the Lord for all He has given us. Your financial gift to this Appeal will make a real and lasting difference to men, women, and children who are in great need.

## LIVESTREAMING

For those of you who are tuning in via livestream, I invite you to please utilize the secure, online giving page [CatholicCommunity.org/Donate](https://CatholicCommunity.org/Donate), or participate via text message. (*Additional tips on page 25*)

### **MOBILE GIVING INSTRUCTIONS**

Catholic Charities is always evolving to meet the needs of the donors who make these programs and services possible. I am excited to share with you the new platform that Catholic Charities has adopted - Text to Give! For mobile giving, all you need is a cell phone and a credit card. If you choose to donate this way, I ask that you take out your cell phone and credit card now. Yes, for this moment, it is okay to use your cell phone in Church! All you have to do is text the phrase CCHOPE to the number 41444. You will receive an immediate response with a link. Follow the link to make your gift; it's as simple as that!

Alternatively, you can use the QR code on the back of your pledge envelope, which will take you directly to the donate page.

### **IN-PEW APPEAL ENVELOPE GIVING INSTRUCTIONS**

Now, we will take a few minutes so that those who prefer to donate using the special Appeal envelope have the opportunity to write in their information.

Please take an envelope, even if you have already pledged through the mail or are not able to make a pledge at this time. I will walk us through the pledge process so that everyone can complete the form together. By leading everyone step by step through the pledge process, it actually takes much less time, and we should be through with this in just a few minutes.

*(Pause and make sure that everyone has received a pledge envelope and pencil.)*

Now, please open the flap and remove the pencil. Note that once you are finished, the pencils should NOT be placed back into the envelopes- but will be collected separately.

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

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

*(Pause)*

On the second and third lines, please print your complete street address, including any apartment number and city/state and zip code. Indicate if this is a new address.

*(Pause)*

Please print your cell phone number and/or home number and your e-mail.

*(Pause)*

Now, please print the name of our parish and our parish's city – this eliminates the confusion of parishes with the same names. If you are visiting, please print your home parish information.

*(Pause)*

If you have already given by mail, please check the box. Also, if you do not wish to give, please check that box.

*(Pause)*

If you have not already pledged by mail, please go to the right side of the envelope. Keeping in mind that you can make recurring payments, please check the amount of your pledge. In the event that 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.

There is no need to provide a down payment today unless you wish to do so. You will receive monthly reminder statements.

*(Pause)*

Now, please look at the boxes under your chosen amount and write in the total gift amount. If you are making a payment today, write the amount enclosed in the next box.

*(Pause)*

You can also give via credit card on the envelope. As you can see, there is a line on the envelope for credit card information. This is a safe and secure way to give immediately to Catholic Charities.

*(Pause)*

Keeping the pencil separate, please tear off the pledge form, insert it into the envelope with your payment, 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 especially on behalf of the people served by Catholic Charities — those who will benefit from your contributions, I thank you for your gift to the Catholic Charities Appeal.

May God bless you.