

SAMPLE WITNESS TALK (given on weekend before In-Pew Sunday)

Hello, my name is _____. I'm a volunteer at _____ Parish.

Once a year, we commit ourselves to this ongoing work by supporting this important appeal. We reflect on God's great generosity, and respond with generous giving of our own. With your support, *faith in action* is visible every day in the compassionate outreach of Catholic Charities, to the least among us; in the prayerful witness of our retired priests and the joy of new priestly vocations; to the many diocesan ministries and programs that heal, teach and care for others. I'd like to talk to you for just a few minutes about the diocesan annual appeal called Partners in Charity.

Partners in Charity helps open the door for:

- Our children and young people who attend Catholic schools
- Parish religious education programs and area college campus ministry programs
- Mothers and fathers at many Partners-supported agencies where charitable help is available for them and their family.
- Men, women, deacons and priests being prepared so they can serve others pastorally
- Newcomers to our country who cherish their Catholic faith who are supported by parishioners from their native lands with open hearts full of friendship.

Without the annual appeal, we may not have had the many training programs that prepare volunteer and professional teachers and lay ministers to reach out to our families and friends, the sick, and the needy.

I would like you to think about how your generosity impacts many people in Central Mass and how you can contribute to the future of our Catholic Church, not only here at _____ (name of Parish), but throughout the Diocese of Worcester.

Many of our brothers and sisters have not been as fortunate as our own homes. How will you respond to God's call to help them and be a Steward of God's gifts with which you have been blessed?

Some of you may be able to pledge \$25 per month, others \$100 per month, some even more. All I ask is that you give in gratitude for the blessings that the Lord has bestowed upon you.

Please remember, what you give to the Partners in Charity Appeal also helps build stronger ministries right here at _____ [Parish]. So please, look into your heart and join me in responding to this request. As our appeal patron for this year, Dorothy Day said, "*I do not know how to love God except by loving the poor. I do not know how to serve God except by serving the poor.*"

Thank you, and may God bless you.