**Pulpit Announcement**

***for Kick-Off Weekend, preceding the video***

The Catholic Stewardship Appeal reminds us that if we come together as people of God, we can accomplish far more than any one of us could on our own. We want the Church to be strong, vital, and serve the faithful through the sacraments and ministry. We need to serve the poor and comfort those who are suffering. We celebrate a Church that is diverse, welcoming, inclusive, spiritual, and joyful.

We at (Name of parish) are a generous giving community. We faithfully contribute to meet the needs of our own parish, but also give to serve the greater Church through our support of the Catholic Stewardship Appeal.

Each year we are asked to ensure that the Church not only sustains, but also grows ministries that will strengthen and expand its support to:

* parishes, Catholic schools and religious education programs
* Catholic Charities
* formation of priests and deacons, and parish lay leaders
* among many other efforts

Father and I want to increase our parish’s support to the Catholic Stewardship Appeal by making an even greater push for increased participation in this year’s campaign. We want to ensure our parish is doing its fair share to support the mission and good works of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee.

The Appeal was founded on a tradition of hope, faith, and gratitude some 90 years ago. By supporting it, we demonstrate our humility and generosity that is firmly rooted in the biblical concept of stewardship and in our obligation as Catholics and disciples of Jesus Christ to share our blessings with others.

A request for Appeal support from the Archdiocese has or will arrive in your mailboxes very soon. Please take time to reflect on and prayerfully consider that request and decide how you can help ensure the continued strength and vitality of our beloved Church.

Thank you to those of you who have been faithful contributors to the Appeal in the past. I hope you will consider renewing your support this year -- with an increase if possible. And, for those of you who have not made a gift before, please think about doing so this year.

Your Appeal gift does make a difference! Thank you and God bless you! And, now, the video.