

# Why Have a Lay Witness?

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Inviting the BAA Chairperson (or another lay witness) to speak to the congregation provides increased motivation to participate in the Appeal. The use of a lay witness is an effective means of increasing participation, identifying with a fellow parishioner, and hearing a different perspective on the importance of supporting the funded ministries. It often is said that “**people give to people.**” The lay witness presentation provides parishioners with a peer-to-peer example of why the Bishop’s Annual Appeal is an important responsibility shared by all members of the Diocese.

## Who Should Be Asked To Make The Lay Witness Presentation?

- Generally, this is the role of the BAA Chairperson.
- In any case, the speaker should be the following:
  - An active parishioner
  - An energetic and enthusiastic speaker
  - A contributor to the Bishop’s Annual Appeal
  - An active and engaged member of the parish

## What Are You Asked To Do As A Lay Witness Presenter?

- Meet with your pastor and attend a Committee Meeting Webinar to review your role as a lay presenter.
- Ensure that the pastor will introduce you at each Mass during the designated weekend.
- Arrange with the pastor for an opportunity to practice from the pulpit in the church.
- Your talk should augment the pastor’s thoughts, not serve as a replacement.

## Basic Hints for Developing Your Presentation:

- Jot down and outline your thoughts.
- Write out the outline using large, double-spaced print.
- Actual stories and experiences work better than statistics.
- Try to keep your talk less than five minutes in duration.
- Speak from the heart – strive to deliver the talk in a sincere, enthusiastic, and friendly manner.

## Suggestions in Preparing Your Presentation:

1. Speaking from the pulpit requires a level of reverence – be aware of your appearance.
2. Practice, practice, practice! Rehearse your talk and deliver it to your spouse, family, or friend.
3. Speak clearly and more slowly than usual to give your listeners time to follow the presentation.
4. Make your gift first! Tell the parishioners that you have pledged your financial support.
5. Express gratitude and thanks in your talk, and enjoy the experience.

## PULPIT PRESENTATION #2

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### LAY SPEAKER WEEKEND (2/8 AND 2/9)

*(To be delivered by the general chairperson or another lay speaker)*

Good evening / good morning!

I have been asked by (Pastor Name \_\_\_\_\_) to speak to you briefly today about my experience with participating in the Bishop's Annual Appeal. For well over 50 years, our diocese, through its parishes, schools and ministries, has enjoyed serving and supporting people of South Carolina. We support our parish, but it's important to reach out beyond our walls. A gift to the 2020 Bishop's Annual Appeal helps address the needs of our entire diocesan family, Catholic or not, which includes all of South Carolina.

Part of our responsibility as Christian stewards is giving back financially. As stewards, we are called to give of our time through service and prayer, our talents through work and ministry, and our treasure by supporting our Church and our brothers and sisters in Christ who need us. Participating in the Bishop's Annual Appeal is an opportunity to practice living out stewardship of our treasure.

The Appeal supports Catholic Charities, funding for retired priests, youth ministry, outreach ministries to the poor, formation for our seminarians, college campus ministries, and so much more.

This year, we have a parish goal of raising \$\_\_\_\_\_ over the next ten months.

***(Mention the success of previous years' appeals if you have consistently reached your target and also state your parish participation rate.)***

The details of the Appeal are outlined in your campaign brochure that was mailed to you this week. If you did not receive this material in the mail, it is available today in the back of church.

***Take this time to share your personal testimony as to why you feel it important to support the needs of our broader church in South Carolina***

Next weekend will be Pledge Weekend in our parish. At Mass, we will take a moment to ask for your gift and will collect your completed pledge envelope. As you consider your contribution to this year's Bishop's Annual Appeal, I would encourage you to reflect on the many gifts and blessings that you have in your life. All of the ministries in the Appeal are worthwhile, and the needs are great. But when we come together, we can do so much more.

Please join me and my family in making a donation to the 2020 Bishop's Annual Appeal. Thank you again for your support of our local parish and the Diocese.