



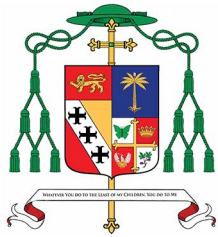
LET'S BE **TOGETHER.**

2026 PARISH PARTNER MANUAL



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ROMAN CATHOLIC  
**DIOCESE**  
**OF CHARLESTON**

OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

January 2026

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Once again, our diocese embarks on a mission to invite every Catholic in South Carolina and everyone of good will to give and become more involved in support of our schools, youth ministries, the poor across the state, Catholic Charities of South Carolina, prison ministry and so many others. These important operations are sharing the love of Christ with all who seek it and are supported by the Catholic Appeal of South Carolina (CASC).

I am deeply grateful that you have chosen to assist your pastor by leading this effort for your parish. CASC will offer a renewed call to parishioners to participate as members of our greater Catholic family, and new tools will be offered to maintain a strong spirit of thankfulness for their generosity. Much of what we can accomplish as a diocese relies on an active and involved response from the faithful in the pews. I thank you in advance for your dedication to this endeavor throughout the year and for encouraging generous giving using the numerous resources that will be provided to your parish.

Our goal for the Catholic Appeal of South Carolina in 2025 is \$5.5 million. This financial target will fund our critical educational, catechetical and charitable outreach programs, and I believe that with your participation, this is a goal that we can achieve. We will showcase the great work of previous CASC initiatives and stress that gifts of any size can make a difference. Through your leadership, we will confirm the growing vibrancy of our Church in every corner of the state.

Your service is very valuable. By assisting with the Appeal, you are offering a personal testimony of support that others will follow. During this Year of Catechesis, I ask that your efforts are led by a spirit of bringing knowledge of the person of Christ to your brothers and sisters.

Should you have questions or need assistance, please contact the Office of Stewardship & Mission Advancement at (843) 261-0438. My staff is available to help you.

Please know that you and your families are in my prayers. I wish you much success in promoting these important ministries to your parish communities.

In Christ's love,

Most Rev. Jacques Fabre-Jeune, CS  
*Bishop of Charleston*

# INTRODUCTION

The Diocese of Charleston is composed of:

242,448 Catholics  
97,640 Households  
96 Parishes and 20 Missions (115 total)  
32 Catholic Schools  
31,189 Square Miles

## *One Diocese in Faith & Family*

The Catholics in South Carolina are members of a universal Church, which we celebrate in our parishes and homes. We live out and practice our faith as members of one family, the Body of Christ.

In each of our communities, we are led by our priests, spiritual leaders and shepherds who are responsible for guiding us in our everyday lives. Our bishop, Most Rev. Jacques Fabre-Jeune, CS, leads and provides spiritual guidance to the larger Catholic family in South Carolina.

While parishes rely on the financial support of parishioners through weekly offertory collections, the ministries and outreach programs — Catholic schools, Catholic Charities of South Carolina, vocations, seminarian, and retired and infirm priests — rely on the faithful’s generous support to make possible the services provided across the state.

The Appeal is an opportunity for each Catholic household to further the mission of the Catholic Church in South Carolina.

This manual has been prepared to familiarize clergy and lay leadership with the operational plan for the **2026 Catholic Appeal of South Carolina**.

The Office of Stewardship & Mission Advancement will assist you and your parish with implementing the Appeal plan to make this a successful endeavor. The Appeal is an organized effort to give every Catholic family in the Diocese of Charleston the opportunity to make a gift to the best of their financial ability.

***Thank you for your leadership and support in helping to carry this message to your parishioners!***

## About the Appeal

### **The Catholic Appeal of South Carolina is designed to:**

- Reach out to every Catholic in the Diocese by promoting a *true stewardship way of life*.
- Encourage sacrificial giving in the form of a pledge that is payable over ten months.
- Encourage maximum participation of parishioners.

Throughout the Appeal, the Office of Stewardship & Mission Advancement will provide continued assistance to you and your parish. We thank you for the great and effective impact parish leadership has on the success of this campaign. Your enthusiasm and commitment help strengthen our Catholic charitable community across the state.

### **The Office of Stewardship & Mission Advancement is responsible for the following Appeal activities:**

- Establishing the CASC timeline and case statement of needs.
- Creating and distributing all operative materials, including manuals, brochures, pledge cards, posters, video message.
- Training pastors and volunteers on the CASC presentations and timeline.
- Recording and tracking all contributions to the CASC.
- Providing monthly online updates regarding donations made to the CASC.
- Sending pledge reminders to donors for the ten-month pledge period.
- Generating thank-you cards and letters to all donors.
- Generating tax letters to all who contribute at least \$50 or specifically request a letter.
- Issuing rebates to those parishes that exceed their goal.

# Tracking CASC Donations by Your Parishioners & Thanking Parish Donors

This year the Office of Stewardship & Mission Advancement will offer designated representatives of each parish access to a **dashboard showing real-time donations** to Catholic Appeal of South Carolina by your parishioners **through Raiser’s Edge**, a secure third-party customer relations management system. These reports list the contact information of your parish’s current donors to the CASC, as well as your parish’s overall progress toward its goal.

We encourage you to use this insightful resource to track donors and to offer a personal message of thanks to each parishioner who helps your parish reach its CASC goal. **Please take some time with your pastor to determine a system for how your parish will offer thanks to your donors.** The diocese will continue to offer a message of thanks from the bishop to each donor.

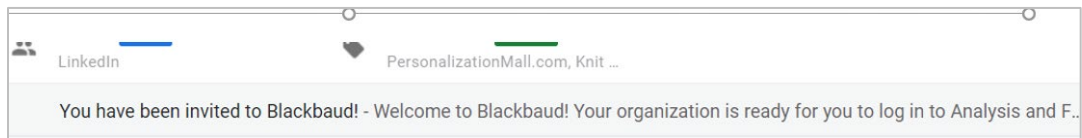
## What is the significance of this service?

Nationwide surveys show that parishes that directly thank their parishioner-donors see an increase in giving levels to the parish’s offertory and other fundraising initiatives as well. In our ongoing effort to surpass 25% participation in CASC, writing thank you letters to CASC supporters from the parish will help with donor retention year after year and will ensure your parishioners feel appreciated for their gifts.

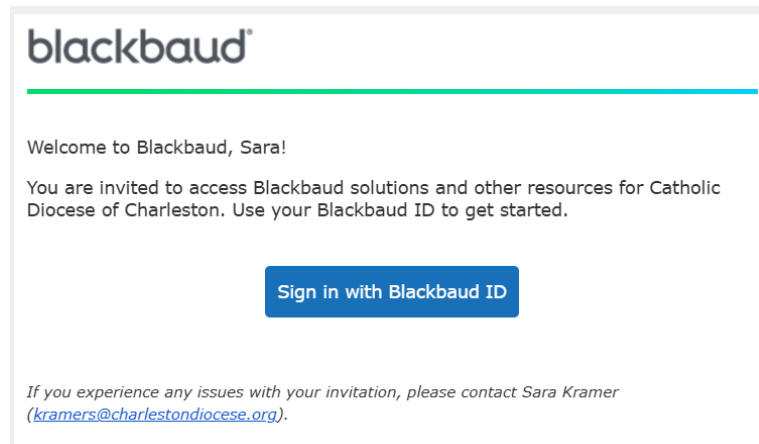
## Instructions for accessing Parish Dashboard on Raiser’s Edge:

1. Please email Ruthie Major at [ruthie@charlestdioocese.org](mailto:ruthie@charlestdioocese.org) with the name, position, and email of the parish designated representative to the CASC reports.
2. The new user will receive an email stating: “You have been invited to Blackbaud! - Welcome to Blackbaud!”

*Inbox view:*



3. Open the email, and the following screen will display. Click on “Sign in with Blackbaud”:



- Next, the following screen will appear. Confirm the email address and select Continue.

blackbaud®

Continue with email

Email address \*

Remember my email

Continue

or

- The next screen asks to send a confirmation code. Click on the button and a code will be sent to your email.

blackbaud®

Sign up

Confirmation of your email address is necessary to create an account.

Send confirmation code

[Back to sign in](#)

- You will receive an email with a code to enter. Enter that confirmation code on the screen. Next, you will be asked to create a password. Once entered and confirmed, click the Sign Up button at the bottom.

# blackbaud®

## Sign up

Confirmation of your email address is necessary to create an account.  
The code has been verified. You can now continue.

██████████@██████████

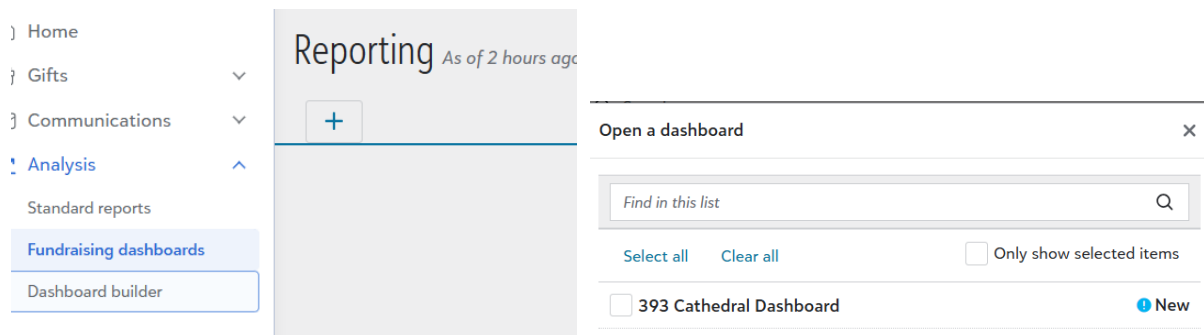
Password  
.....

- ✓ Must be 12 or more characters.
- ✓ Must contain at least 3 of the following:
  - Lowercase letter
  - Capital letter
  - Number
  - Special character (!, #, %, etc.)

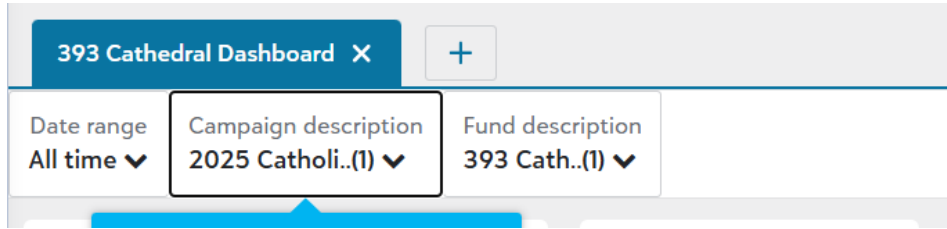
Confirm password  
.....

First name  
Sara

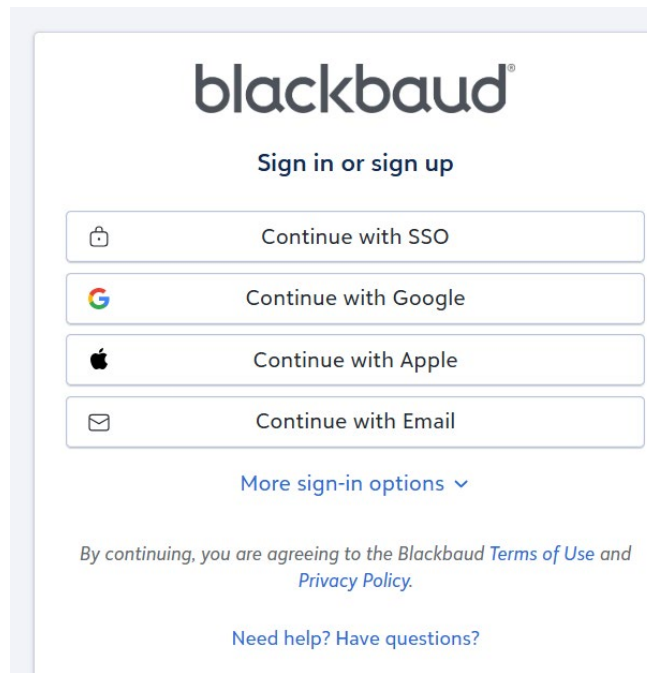
- You will be asked to set up Multi-Factor Authentication. You can use an authenticator app or text. Follow the instructions on the screen to authenticate. A recovery code will be produced. Save this to a note pad or in a safe place in case you ever forget your information.
- A welcome screen appears. If you are asked which environment to select, use Raiser’s Edge NXT – Catholic Diocese of Charleston Environment.
- The user then will go to Fundraising Dashboards > Reporting and click the (+) to open the Parish Dashboard. Your parish will be listed here to select.



10. The user will see their parish dashboard displayed in the first blue tab.



11. When coming back, go to [renxt.blackbaud.com](https://renxt.blackbaud.com) and sign in using SSO or Continue with Email:



# Calendar & Timeline for the 2026 Appeal

While the Stewardship office is responsible for the preparation of all Appeal materials and offers assistance and support, the most significant aspects of the Appeal are organization and leadership at the parish level. Success is closely tied to these factors and to the individuals who assume leadership roles in the Appeal. Thank you for your enthusiasm and willingness to do what is necessary to make this year's Appeal successful!

## **DIOCESAN LEVEL**

Responsible for the preparation of the appeal plan, timetable, and the production of appeal printed materials such as pledge cards, posters, etc. The diocese also is responsible for mailing the CASC packet of information to every registered household and is here to provide advice, encouragement, and motivation to parish volunteers and staff.

## **PARISH LEVEL**

Leadership includes the pastor, general chairperson(s), parish secretary, and a small group of appeal volunteers.

### *Pastor/Administrator*

Responsible for the implementation of the appeal plan in his parish. Success of the Appeal depends upon enthusiastic support from the clergy, who is asked to set the pace and tone of the endeavor to optimize support. The pastor is asked to make the appropriate pulpit presentations, so parishioners are adequately informed, prepared, and motivated to participate generously in the Appeal. The Pastor also is responsible for recruiting the general chairperson or other lay speaker to make a presentation at all Masses on the appropriate weekend. His role is to:

- Pray for the success of the Catholic Appeal of South Carolina during Mass and at various parish functions.
- Recruit a chairperson to deliver a pulpit presentation during the Appeal.
- Speak enthusiastically about the Catholic Appeal, outline the program to the entire parish family, and challenge each to consider a pledge over the next ten months to the best of their financial ability.
- Draft an appeal letter to be mailed to all households or printed in the bulletin.
- Assist in arranging to show CASC video one weekend at all Masses and deliver link to the video via email communication.
- Make a leadership gift to the Catholic Appeal for your parishioners to follow.

### *Role of the Chairperson(s)*

Responsible for assisting the pastor during the Appeal, coordinating volunteers, as well as making a pulpit presentation at all Masses on one weekend. The chairperson(s) will:

- Be a well-known and recognized parish leader who is a generous and consistent supporter of the parish, making a gift or pledge by the end of January.

- Make a presentation at Mass during the Appeal effort and encourage all parishioners to consider a gift to the best of their financial ability.
- Be sure that all promotional materials and information are presented to parishioners.
- Remain in regular contact with the pastor, appeal volunteers, and Office of Stewardship and Mission Advancement throughout the Appeal.
- **Access CASC report of donations by parishioners through Raiser’s Edge and organize sending thank you letters to new donors each week.**

### *Role of the Parish Secretary*

Responsible for inserting appeal newsletters into the bulletin, processing pledge cards, and keeping in contact with the Office of Stewardship. The secretary is to:

- Remain in regular contact with the pastor, general chairperson(s), and Appeal volunteers.
- Ensure that **Appeal newsletters** provided through *Flocknote* and on *Catholic Social Media* are copied and inserted into the parish’s weekly bulletin and that pledge cards are placed in the pews. Also, place a petition for the Catholic Appeal of South Carolina in the weekly bulletin.
- Maintain regular contact with the Office of Stewardship for materials (brochures, pledge cards, etc.), reports, and other Appeal information.
- **Remit all pledge envelopes in the provided Tyvek envelopes and timely mail to our Gift Processing Center.** (*See page 24 for procedure*)

### *Role of the Appeal Volunteers*

Asked to staff tables after Masses to assist fellow parishioners with appeal and pledge card-related questions. Appeal volunteers also are asked to help place extra pledge envelopes in the pews for Pledge Weekend. Their role is to:

- Assist the pastor, general chairperson(s), and parish secretary throughout the Appeal.
- Be familiar with all Appeal materials (brochures, pledge cards, etc.).
- Volunteer at information tables after Mass on the appropriate weekends to answer questions concerning the Appeal and assist your fellow parishioners with completing pledge cards.

January 2026						
Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
				1 <i>Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God</i>	2	3
4 <i>The Epiphany of the Lord</i>	5	6	7	8	9 2025 CASC Books Close	10
11 <i>The Baptism of the Lord</i>	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21 1:00 PM CASC 2026 Training via TEAMS	22	23 11:00 AM CASC 2026 Training via TEAMS	24
25	26 11:00 AM CASC 2026 Training via TEAMS	27	28	29	30	31
<p><b>NOTES</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Each parish is responsible for <b>signing up and attending</b> one of the <b>CASC 2026 Training Meetings via TEAMS</b>. It is strongly encouraged that the parish pastor and CASC General Chairperson(s) attend.</li> <li>• The details of the 2026 CASC will be reviewed at the <b>Training Meeting</b>.</li> <li>• Materials will be delivered by MAIL to your parish before the Appeal begins. <b>** Do not throw them out. **</b></li> <li>• Please RSVP to the Stewardship Office through TEAMS to indicate which Training your representative(s) will be attending and the name of your parish Chairperson(s).</li> </ul>						

<i>February 2026</i>						
Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; background-color: #e0e0e0;">           Bishop Fabre's CASC letter mailed to all registered households the week of Feb. 2, includes: CASC Letter, CASC Brochure, Personalized pledge card with return envelope.         </div>						
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
	<b>11:00 AM Columbia His Garden Society Donor Mass &amp; Luncheon</b>					
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
			<i>Ash Wednesday</i>			
22	23	24	25	26	27	28

<i>March 2026</i>						
Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
						<b>11:00 AM Charleston His Garden Society Donor Mass &amp; Luncheon</b>
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
					<b>11:00 AM Greenville His Garden Society Donor Mass &amp; Luncheon</b>	
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				
<i>Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion</i>	<i>Holy Week</i>					

# 2026 APPEAL TIMETABLE

*The following highlights the events/deadlines that take place during the active phase of the Appeal on a week-by-week basis.*

## **January 5-31: Training and Preparation**

- Appeal materials arrive to parish via mail!
- Attend one of the Training Meetings offered via TEAMS
- Pastor's letter mailed or inserted into bulletin
- Invitations to Mass and a Reception with the Bishop will be extended to His Garden Society members from CASC 2025

## **February 7-8: Kickoff Weekend**

- Pastor to speak at all Masses announcing the beginning of the 2026 CASC  
*See Pulpit Presentation #1 on page 15*
- Newsletter #1 to be inserted into the parish bulletin and circulated via email
- Video presentation at all Masses
- Posters should be placed in the church
- Diocesan mailing is sent to all registered parishioners in the parish and will include:
  - Personal letter of appeal from Bishop Fabre
  - Appeal brochure
  - Personalized pledge card and return envelope

## **February 14-15: Chairperson Weekend**

- General chairperson(s) to speak at all Masses  
*See Pulpit Presentation #2 on page 17*
- Newsletter #2 to be inserted into the parish bulletin and circulated via email
- Additional brochures and pledge cards made available at Masses

## **February 21-22: Pledge Weekend**

- Pastor to speak  
*See Pulpit Presentation #3 on page 18*
- Newsletter #3 inserted into parish bulletin and circulated via email
- Additional pledge cards to be placed in pews and in the back of church
- Volunteers set up and staff "information tables" after all Masses to meet parishioners who have questions about making a pledge
- Pledge cards are given to the parish Secretary who will send them to the Diocese
  - *(See page 24 for procedure)*

**All CASC presentations should take place either at the start of Mass or before the homily.**

**Please have ushers pass out pledge envelopes the weekend of Pledge Weekend.**

*\*Schedule "B" is designed exclusively for parishes that might need to move the overall schedule one week. Please notify the Stewardship Office if this is necessary!*

*February 28-March 1: **Follow-Up Weekend***

- ◆ Pastor to make follow-up announcement at all Masses  
*See Pulpit Presentation #4 on page 19*
- ◆ Newsletter #4 inserted into parish bulletin and circulated via email
- ◆ Pledge cards are given to the parish secretary who will send them to the CASC Processing Center

*April 24: Letter #2 Follow-Up Diocesan Mailing*

**Follow-up mailing** from the Diocese to all families who have not participated:

- Follow-up Appeal letter from Bishop Fabre
- Personalized pledge card and return envelope

*September 4: Letter #3 Follow-Up Diocesan Mailing*

**Follow-up mailing** from the Diocese to all families who have not participated:

- Follow-up Appeal letter from Bishop Fabre
- Personalized pledge card and return envelope

*November 6: Letter #4 Follow-Up Diocesan Mailing*

**Follow-up mailing** from the Diocese to families who have not participated:

- Follow-up Appeal letter from Bishop Fabre
- Personalized pledge card and return envelope

## **Pulpit Presentation #1: KICKOFF WEEKEND (2/7 and 2/8)**

*(To be delivered by the pastor in each parish, either before each Mass or as part of the homily)*

Today, I would like to announce that our parish is beginning its participation in the annual appeal to strengthen the many critical missions and ministries of the Catholic Church in South Carolina through the Catholic Appeal of South Carolina, or the CASC.

We join our Catholic brothers and sisters throughout our state to provide support for the many essential ministries of our church that span across the Diocese. Every year, the Appeal gives us the opportunity to look outside our parish boundaries and recognize the universal causes of our church throughout South Carolina. The CASC provides the crucial funding for the statewide programs and ministries supported by our Catholic community.

Today, we have arranged to watch the 2026 Catholic Appeal video, which highlights some of the ministries that are funded through your generosity.

**\*\*\*SHOW APPEAL VIDEO\*\*\***

(Duration: 5 minutes max)

Over the next few weeks, you will receive information regarding the Appeal in the mail. You also will be hearing more about the CASC during Mass.

We ask you to make your commitment by or on the weekend of **February 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>**.

Thank you for your prayerful consideration and support of these important ministries that support our diocese and our local parish.

### **Additional Comments to Consider:**

- Report last year's statistics (did your parish reach goal?)
- Deacons who serve the parish are supported by the CASC
- Is there a local Catholic Charities office that serves and supports your community?
- Are there local college or universities with campus ministry programs?
- Are there seminarians or recently ordained priests who have served or are serving in your parish?
- Do you have youth that have attended CLI, DYC, SEARCH, or other Youth Ministry retreats?

### *Why Have a Lay Witness?*

Inviting the CASC 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 Catholic Appeal of South Carolina 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 CASC Chairperson.
- In any case, the speaker should be the following:
  - An active parishioner
  - An energetic and enthusiastic speaker

- A contributor to the Catholic Appeal of South Carolina
- 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.

**Tips 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 presentation less than five minutes in duration.
- Speak from the heart – strive to deliver the talk in a sincere, enthusiastic, and friendly manner.

**Suggestions for 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: Chairperson Weekend (2/14 and 2/15)**

*(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 efforts of the greater Church. For well over 50 years, our diocese, through its parishes, schools and ministries, has enjoyed serving and supporting the people of South Carolina. A gift to the 2026 Catholic Appeal of South Carolina gives you the opportunity to join Catholics across South Carolina and support Catholic efforts across our State- truly across the diocesan family. The Appeal supports Catholic schools, funding for retired priests, youth ministry, outreach ministries to the poor, formation for our seminarians, college campus ministries, and so much more.

As Christian stewards, we are called to love God by loving our neighbors as ourselves, which is 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 Catholic Appeal of South Carolina is an opportunity to practice living out stewardship of our treasure.

This year, we have a parish goal of raising \$ \_\_\_\_\_ over the next 10 months.

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

The details of the Appeal are outlined in your campaign brochure that was mailed to you. 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 Catholic Appeal of South Carolina, 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. When we come together, we can do so much.

Please join me and my family in donating to the 2026 Catholic Appeal of South Carolina. Thank you again for your support of our local parish and the Diocese.

### **Pulpit Presentation #3: Pledge Weekend (2/21 and 2/22)**

*(To be delivered by the pastor, either before Mass or during the homily)*

I want to thank you for your attention and interest as we've presented the 2026 Catholic Appeal of South Carolina the past few weeks.

As your Pastor, I support this effort and know that we will achieve our parish goal. The Catholic Appeal of South Carolina provides the means to continue the mission that Christ has entrusted to us: to serve, to educate, to care for the poor, and to be an inspiration of hope. The ministries, seminarians, retired priests, and programs that benefit from this effort allow us to fulfill the mission given to us all. The Appeal is one way that we pass our faith to the next generation.

At this point, I will ask everyone over the next few minutes to make your commitment and complete a pledge envelope. For those of you who have already made a gift, I thank you for your generosity. In a few minutes, I will have the ushers pick up all envelopes and pledge cards, including those that have been brought today. Please remember that any gift of any size is a tremendous blessing and strengthens our Catholic charitable community.

#### **For parishes that distribute their own CASC envelopes:**

If you are already contributing to the Appeal through a monthly CASC envelope that we provide, please continue to do so. Thank you for your attention and learning about the purpose of the CASC and what it supports. In several weeks, we will give you an update on our progress, participation, and the success of the Appeal.

## **Pulpit Presentation #4: Follow-up Weekend (2/28 and 3/1)**

*(To be delivered by the pastor or priest)*

I would like to thank everyone for their participation and support of the 2026 Catholic Appeal of South Carolina. I also would like to thank all of those who volunteered their time to help make this effort the success it has become.

If you have not yet made a gift to the CASC, I encourage you to do so today or as soon as possible. Remember, our goal this year is to reach 25% parish participation from our parish families. I ask you to prayerfully consider participating with whatever amount you can generously give to help us reach our goal.

I, along with Bishop Fabre, would like to thank you for your help in supporting the ministries and missions of our church across the state by donating to this year's Catholic Appeal of South Carolina.

***\*PLEASE SHARE CURRENT APPEAL PROGRESS, WHICH CAN BE FOUND ON THE REPORTS AVAILABLE IN RAISERS EDGE (see page 6).***

## Sample Pastor Letter

*Please place on parish letterhead or white paper and mail to all registered parishioners by Friday, January 30. Alternatively, this letter may be inserted directly into the bulletin January 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>.*

January 2026

Dear Parishioners and Friends,

As we begin the Catholic Appeal of South Carolina, I encourage your sacrificial support as we join this effort with Catholics throughout our state. Every day, our diocesan-wide ministries are offering care to the poor and disadvantaged, educating our youth and adults, and supporting the clergy and religious who serve in every corner of South Carolina. The Catholic Appeal challenges us to look beyond our own parish boundaries and consider the broader mission of the Church throughout our state and grow our Catholic charitable community.

With an overall goal of \$5,500,000 dollars, and a parish target of \$\_\_\_\_\_, this undertaking presents you, as parishioners, with an opportunity to support the mission of our church throughout its ministries. When we surpass our goal, we receive back 50% of funds raised beyond our goal. Remember: it is not about how much you can give but that you are confirming your faith in this effort by giving in any capacity.

In the coming weeks, each of us will have an opportunity to support this cause through the direct mail appeal from Bishop Fabre and at weekend Mass. I know we will respond to this challenge as we have in previous years.

Thank you again for all that you do to support our parish and diocese. May God continue to bless you and your loved ones.

Yours in Christ,  
(SIGNATURE)

Pastor [or substitute], Parish/Mission Name

## Sample Letter to Ushers

*Weekend of February 21-22*

Dear Ushers,

The Diocese of Charleston has embarked on the 2026 Catholic Appeal of South Carolina. This weekend, I will ask all our parishioners to make a commitment to join in this Appeal. This weekend is “Pledge Weekend” in our parish, and your assistance as an usher at Masses this weekend is appreciated.

### **During each Mass (2/21 & 2/22):**

As part of my homily, I will ask everyone to submit their pledge cards or donations.

There will be a pause while I ask everyone who has not made a commitment to the Appeal to do so by filling out a pledge envelope (pledge envelopes and pencils will be in the pews).

I then will ask you to retrieve all pledges and donations. I then will proceed with the [start of the Mass or the remainder of the homily].

Please bring all pledges and donations to the sacristy. Do not mix or mingle the CASC collection with offertory collections, not even cash. Completed envelopes should be stored for counting.

Thank you for your commitment to the parish and for your valuable service to your parish community.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Pastor [or substitute]

## Sample Petitions

*The following is a list of sample petitions for use in the Prayers of the Faithful. Please use one CASC petition each weekend throughout the month of February.*

### *Kickoff Weekend – February 7-8*

- That as we are called to support the ministries of our church through the Catholic Appeal of South Carolina, we resolve to practice our faith in this very practical, meaningful way...*We pray to the Lord.*
- That through our participation in the annual Catholic Appeal of South Carolina, we continue to be channels of the living and loving presence of Christ in our world...*We pray to the Lord.*

### *Chairperson Weekend – February 14-15*

- That as we make our commitment to the Catholic Appeal of South Carolina, we may remember God's generosity to us...*We pray to the Lord.*
- That as we participate in the 2026 Catholic Appeal of South Carolina to help others, we give thanks to our God for the gifts and blessings we have received...*We pray to the Lord.*

### *Pledge Weekend – February 21-22*

- That God's blessings are upon every parish throughout the Diocese on this Pledge Weekend for the 2026 Catholic Appeal of South Carolina...*We pray to the Lord.*
- That we may respond generously to the 2026 Catholic Appeal of South Carolina as faithful stewards of the gifts God has entrusted to us...*We pray to the Lord.*

### *Follow-Up Weekend – February 28-March 1*

- That each one of us will seriously consider reaching out to the needs of others by supporting the Catholic Appeal of South Carolina...*We pray to the Lord.*
- That as we make our commitment to the 2026 Catholic Appeal of South Carolina, we may remember God's loving generosity to us...*We pray to the Lord.*

## Sample “Thank You” Correspondence to Each Donor

***If being sent by mail:***

*Please place on parish letterhead or white paper.*

***If being sent by e-mail:***

*Please send from pastor/chairperson’s e-mail account with the subject:  
“Thank you for your gift to the CASC at [Parish Name]”*

[Date]

Dear [Parishioner Name],

I am writing you this note to offer a heartfelt thanks for your generous gift of \$[donation amount] to the 2026 Catholic Appeal of South Carolina. As a parishioner at [Parish Name], I am grateful that you have recognized the important work of the Catholic Church beyond our parish walls and have chosen to offer your support to its critical schools, programs, and ministries.

As we continue to pray for surpassing 25% participation from our parish family in 2026, you have helped us move one step closer to this target, and we are deeply appreciative of your generosity. Should you have any questions about your gift to the Catholic Appeal of SC, please reach out to the Diocese of Charleston’s Office of Stewardship & Mission Advancement at (843) 261-0438.

I thank you again for your wonderful display of generosity in supporting those who act as the hands and feet of Christ in every corner of this state.

Yours in Christ,

**(SIGNATURE)**

Pastor [or substitute], Parish/Mission Name

# REMITTANCE OF PLEDGES TO THE DIOCESE OF CHARLESTON

To expedite the remittance of pledges received at each parish to the Diocese and the posting of progress dash boards, please follow the following procedures:

- Beginning the weekend of **February 7** each parish should expect to receive pledges in both a special collection as well as through the offertory collection in the following weeks.
- The Office of Stewardship will provide each parish with a self-addressed Tyvek “mailing bag.”
- **\* DO NOT SEND CASH! \***
- **Open all envelopes to remove any cash donations.** Please write one parish check to cover the amount of any cash donations. With the parish check, please include either (i) a list of parishioners who made cash donations (including their address and donation amount), or (ii) the empty CASC envelopes that contained parishioners’ cash donations or both. This allows us to credit the donor for his/her gifts. Include a note if any portion of a parish check represents anonymous cash contributions.
- If a new parishioner is listed on a cash donation list (see previous bullet point), then please include all parishioner information (e.g., name, spouse, address, phone number, etc.).
- Leave all envelopes with checks intact. Bundle and mail them in “as is” condition.
- **Do NOT** write anything on the “pay to order of” line of the check. Checks are perfectly acceptable whether they are made out to CASC, the Diocese, or the name of your parish.

## SEND CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE GIFT PROCESSING CENTER AT LEAST ONCE A WEEK

Please **DO NOT** hold parishioners’ checks in your office for more than one week before mailing them. This causes many checks to be returned due to insufficient funds, and it prevents us from practicing good stewardship by thanking donors in a timely manner. Thank you so much for your help.

*If you have any questions or concerns, please contact:*

Ruthie Major, Mission Advancement Coordinator  
(843) 261-0438  
ruthie@charlestdioocese.org

Sarah Lima, Development Coordinator  
(843) 261-0431  
slima@charlestdioocese.org

## **Mail All CASC Donations to the Gift Processing Center:**

**Diocese of Charleston/Catholic Appeal of South Carolina  
Gift Processing Center  
P.O. Box 481  
Kensington, CT 06037-0481**

### **CONTACTS**

#### **Office of Stewardship and Mission Advancement**

**Ruthie Major**, *Mission Advancement Coordinator*

(843) 261-0438

[ruthie@charlestdioocese.org](mailto:ruthie@charlestdioocese.org)

**Sarah Lima**, *Development Coordinator*

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