**2024 Diocesan Services Appeal**

**Sample Lay Presenter Talk**

**Recommended for Announcement Weekend, February 24 & 25**

On Announcement Weekend a short presentation to the parish by a lay person on the importance of the DSA can be extremely effective.

Often given by the DSA chairperson, deacon, lay minister or other DSA volunteer, the talk can offer a personal perspective on the impact that DSA-supported ministries and programs have on the parish.

The talk should take place either after the homily or after communion, depending on the parish’s protocol.

The lay presenters should be individuals who relate well to other parishioners, feel comfortable speaking to a group about their personal experiences, and are enthusiastic about the mission.

**NOTE:** The lay presenter needs to meet or talk with the pastor to discuss the pastor’s expectations for this talk. We suggest that the same lay presenter(s) speak at all Masses on a particular weekend. This will ensure a consistent message at all Masses and will make it easier to coordinate.

**Sample script provided below:**

Good Morning/Good Evening!

My name is \_\_\_\_ and I have been a member of our \_\_\_\_\_\_ Parish family for \_\_\_\_\_ years.

It is my pleasure to speak to you today about our 2024 Diocesan Services Appeal.

Our DSA theme this year is from Sirach chapter 35 verse 8 **“The Offering of the Just Enriches the Altar”** This verse in particular speaks to me as it seems to be a call from the Lord to unite our prayers, good works, and blessings more deeply with the sacrifice of the altar in the Holy Eucharist.

***Take time here to share why you personally feel it is important to support the Diocesan Services Appeal with stories about how Catholic Schools, or Catholic Charites, or other diocesan ministries has impacted your life.***

***Refer to - I Give to the DSA… copy for suggestions. Make it personal and compelling for those in your parish.***

These are a few of the reasons that I support the DSA, why the DSA is always one of my family’s top charitable priorities each year. We’ve been showered with so many blessings, so we try to be good stewards of God’s gifts and help the work of the church in return. As our theme this year reminds us our gifts are truly efficacious in bringing us closer to the altar.

Our parish also has a long history of sacrificing generously **through DSA** – supporting dozens of other ministries that offer direct assistance to individuals, to families, to parishes, to Catholic schools, and to Catholic Charities agencies across our diocese.

Next week, we will share the Bishop’s DSA message and invite you to make your commitment to this year’s appeal. Please prayerfully consider your contribution this week.

With our generous gifts to DSA, we help our diocese reach out to those who are in need of our compassion, our love and our mercy through the work of the Catholic Church. Please join me and my family in sharing the love of Christ with others.

Thank you, again, for your support of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Parish and the wider Church.