



KICK-OFF WEEKEND SEPTEMBER 14-15, 2024

Instructions for Kick-off

As in the prior two years, we will not have a video as part of the kick-off weekend.

A copy of the initial Appeal Update is attached to the Wednesday Weekly and sets out the **parish goals**. It has not yet been updated with donations received after July 1st.

A few things to note:

Every year we have problems with our database program for the generation of envelopes and this year appears to have more significant problems. You may find that you have envelopes with incorrect addresses in your bundles or envelopes for people who no longer are there. With the forthcoming change in our software, we expect that this will not be a problem in future years. Here are our recommendations for handling any of these errors:

- Misprinted envelopes should be reused wherever possible. We suggest applying a standard mailing label with a correct address overtop the misprint.
- Envelopes for those who have moved away should also receive a blank mailing label and be used as a spare package for those who may not yet be on the distribution list.
- Envelopes should be held until after the second week of the Appeal. After that time, **please put stamps on the envelopes that have not been picked up and mail them out**. Send the receipt for your postage to the finance office and we will credit your bank account.
- We will likely have additional bundles available after the first week. If you have need for additional bundles, please let us know.

Here are the preparatory steps for this weekend:

1. Add the **bulletin** write-up in your bulletin—see below.
2. Put out posters and any envelopes for parishioners in foyer.
3. Add the prayer below to your universal prayer
4. Before the final blessing, please read Bishop Jensen's letter from the brochure
5. **Ask parishioners to pick up their envelope**. If they do not have a personalized envelope they are welcome to take a blank one provided.
6. **Please advise parishioners that those who donate by Interac eTransfer should include a message with the name of your parish that should be credited with the donation, any instructions regarding allocation of funds to Called Together and Healing and Reconciliation, as well as an email address in case we have any questions about the donation. Donors can also include their donor number, which is found on the outside of their envelope.**

Bulletin Write-Up *(please adapt as needed)*

Today, along with all the other parishes and missions throughout the diocese, we kick-off the Annual Diocesan Appeal: ***“Called Together – Giving, Sharing, Serving.”***

As we begin our Appeal Year, we also start to look toward the upcoming Jubilee Year of 2025 – *Pilgrims of Hope* – during which we are called to reflect on our pilgrimage of faith together.

Our appeal is one of the ways in which we journey together. Your support helps those smaller parishes, missions and ministries throughout the whole diocese that need assistance along the way and is an important way in which you can practice stewardship and participate in the mission of the Church.

Each parish, too, is encouraged to support the appeal to raise funds for much-needed projects within the parish. Every dollar raised above the parish's share of the diocesan goal is returned to the parish for important projects and unmet needs.

The diocesan goal has been slightly increased to \$300,000 this year, still far short of the usual \$400,000. We continue to direct the biggest portion to help those smaller parishes and missions across the diocese who continue to face ongoing challenges and need our support.

Our Parish Goal is: \$_____ of which \$_____ goes to support ministries throughout the diocese and \$_____ goes to important projects within our parish.

We thank you for your continued generous support.

For the pulpit announcement (*please read this letter from Bishop Jensen taken from the brochure*)

The Old Testament custom of the Jubilee Year (cf. Leviticus 25) reminded the people of Israel that their land and its fruits were a gift of God. In that special time, they acknowledged that God was the owner and giver of all their benefits. During the Jubilee year fields lay fallow, everyone rejoined his own clan, land that had been lost to debt was restored to the poor and other debts were forgiven. The Jubilee reminded people of their status as liberated children of God and helped them reflect that in their life together.

In late December, the Church begins a Christian Jubilee Year to mark our pilgrimage through time to God's eternal Kingdom. Pope Boniface VIII instituted the first Jubilee Year in 1300 AD, and this special observance has been held every 25 years since then.

We share this journey as a community of believers and answer the call to "help carry one another's burdens and so fulfill the law of Christ" (Galatians 6:2). We acknowledge that all our gifts are from Him, and we imitate His goodness by giving of our blessings to those in need. The Annual Appeal is one way of exercising this Christian stewardship that will benefit a variety of needs in the Diocese.

In Jubilee Years pilgrims traditionally journey to Rome, where the major basilica churches open their special Jubilee doors. An expected thirty-five million pilgrims will travel to Rome in the coming year. For those unable to undertake such a journey, a pilgrimage within the diocese will offer the same spiritual experience. More information about that will soon be available.

I invite you to join me in this year's Appeal, so that our gratitude to God for His blessings to us can be expressed in support of the community of faith throughout the Diocese. In this way we will be pilgrims together on the way to the Kingdom of God.

+Most Reverend Stephen Jensen

Universal Prayer

1. For our Diocesan family, as we begin our Annual Appeal: Called Together; that our generosity in reaching out to meet the needs of others will reflect our desire to be followers of Christ. We pray to the Lord.