“The GRACE of our Lord has been Abundant.”

1 Timothy 1:14

God’s Gift Appeal 2022
Commitment Weekend
February 26-27, 2022
January 2022

Dear Friends in Christ,

As we begin the 2022 God’s Gift Appeal, I offer my gratitude to you, the pastors, lay leaders and volunteers, who give so much of your time and talent toward the God’s Gift Appeal. Your leadership educates the faithful about the valuable services and programs supported by the God’s Gift Appeal. You also play a significant role in helping our brothers and sisters understand their own need to return a portion of their treasure in thanksgiving for what God has given them.

I am thankful for the generosity shown toward the 2022 God’s Gift Appeal. However, based on the percentage of Catholic households who participated, there is still a great need to educate the faithful about the call to stewardship and the unity between the diocesan Church and the individual parishes.

The promotional materials for the 2022 God’s Gift Appeal bring us one step closer to a successful appeal. It is you, the clergy and faithful in the parishes, who will be most effective in communicating the theme of serving one another through stewardship. Thank you for sharing the message of grateful stewardship in your parish community.

This year, our God’s Gift Appeal theme is: “The GRACE of our Lord has been Abundant.” 1 Timothy 1:14
Let this be a reminder to us that we have an opportunity to share in the gift of Stewardship, which is a true call to discipleship. As we begin this year’s God’s Gift Appeal, may the blessings of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

† Most Reverend John T. Folda
Bishop of Fargo
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INTRODUCTION

“The GRACE of our Lord has been Abundant.” 1 Timothy 1:14

68,658 Catholics

129 Parishes

695 Infant Baptisms

14 Catholic Schools

30 Counties

45 Minor and Adult Baptisms

16 Seminarians

858 First Communions

3 Ordinations

890 Confirmations

125 Priests 52 Deacons 68 Sisters

233 Marriages

944 Deaths

Source: *2021 Official Catholic Directory
2022 God’s Gift Appeal Goal
$3,421,865

We are grateful that you have answered the call to be an instrumental piece to this appeal. A successful Appeal depends on you, the parish leadership and chair people. Create a positive and energetic environment. Highlight the three aspects of stewardship, Time, Talent and Treasure and you will make the 2022 God’s Gift Appeal successful.

If you have any questions, need further clarification or information, please contact me.

Steve Schons, Director of Stewardship and Development
(701) 356-7926 – office
(701) 361-9757 – cell phone
Email: steve.schons@fargodiocese.org

➢ The desired participation goal for all parishes is 100%.
➢ The desired amount of giving for families is 1% of their annual income.
➢ Information regarding parish goals and pledge amounts, updated weekly, can be found online at: http://www.fargodiocese.org/godsgiftappeal

If you have questions about payments / pledges or to update your contact information, contact: Susan LeMier at 701-356-7925 or susan.lemier@fargodiocese.org
If you have questions about making a credit card or EFT payment or to update your card information, contact: Brenda Hagemeier at 701-356-7928 or brenda.hagemeier@fargodiocese.org or Andrea Henjum at 701-356-7934 or andrea.henjum@fargodiocese.org
LEADERSHIP ROLES

Diocese Staff

☐ Assist Pastor on appeal roll-out plan and appeal timetable.
☐ Appeal Brochures, Pledge Cards, Posters, Return Envelopes, etc.
☐ Providing technical support and information.
☐ Receive and forward pledge envelopes to the diocese in a timely manner. This enables parishes to have current God’s Gift Appeal totals.

Pastors

☐ Implementation of the Appeal plan in your parish.
☐ Enthusiastically inform, educate and inspire participation.
☐ Making the Kick-Off Weekend, February 12-13, message presentation to your parishioners.
☐ Showing Bishop Folda’s GGA DVD either on February 12-13 or February 19-20 in the church proper where Mass is said and during the weekend Masses.
☐ Recruitment of a lay speaker(s) for Education Weekend, February 19-20.
☐ Include petition prayers at Mass for the success of God’s Gift Appeal. (See page 22).
☐ On Commitment Weekend, February 26-27 using pulpit presentation #3 on page 18, encourage all parishioners to consider a generous gift in gratitude for all that the Lord has given them.
☐ Using the sample letters in this manual that are appropriate for each phase of the Appeal, or compose your own using the samples as a guide.
☐ Encouraging all parish members to make a pledge over a period of eight months. Budgeting often produces a more substantial gift.
☐ Encourage the use of the pre-printed pledge card and response envelopes.
☐ Be familiar with ministries and programs that benefit from the God’s Gift Appeal.
☐ Provide timely updates during the active phase of the Appeal, from your pulpit and weekly bulletin. (See sample bulletin announcements on page 23).

☑ Check off boxes as completed.
Parish Secretary

☐ Assist the pastor with rollout appeal timetable.
☐ Receive and forward pledge envelopes to the diocese in a timely manner. This enables parishes to have current God’s Gift Appeal totals.
☐ As needed, coordinate weekly meetings (does not have to be long) with your pastor, leader(s) and parish volunteers and to ensure the successful completion of your God’s Gift Appeal.
☐ Request additional materials from the Office of Stewardship & Development, e.g. brochures, pledge cards, envelopes, etc. (701-356-7928 – Brenda Hagemeier).
☐ Place and/or replenish pledge cards and envelopes in the pews for your parishioner’s convenience each weekend beginning on **Commitment Weekend and for two weeks afterwards**.
☐ Include a petition in your Intercessory Prayers for all Masses during the God’s Gift Appeal pledge drive as well as in your weekly bulletin (examples on page 19).
☐ Mailing your parishioners’ completed pledges and envelopes to the Diocesan Finance Office each week during the Appeal campaign. Use the 8½ x 11½” or 10x13” self-addressed Tyvek envelopes.

General Leader(s)

☐ Assist the pastor with rollout and appeal timetable.
☐ Making sure the God’s Gift Appeal video is shown on Kick-off or Education Weekend.
☐ Making the Lay Speaker Pulpit Presentation on **Education Weekend**, February 19-20, if requested by the pastor. Lay testimony is very effective.
☐ Lead by example. Make your pledge/commitment to God’s Gift Appeal.
☐ Encourage parishioners to participate in the God’s Gift Appeal.
☐ As needed, coordinate weekly meetings (does not have to be long) with your pastor, leader(s) and parish volunteers to ensure the successful completion of your God’s Gift Appeal.
☐ Communicating with pastor, parish leaders and volunteers the progress of the Appeal.
☐ Ensuring that every individual and family in the parish has an opportunity to participate.

☑ Check off boxes as completed.
The initial God’s Gift Appeal invitation letters, from Bishop Folda, will be mailed to every household in the Diocese of Fargo the week of February 21-25. On **Kick-Off Weekend** and **Education Weekend**, pulpit presentations take place. Please reference the checklist of important dates below.

Please use the God’s Gift Appeal sample pulpit presentations on the following pages of this manual for ideas and suggestions for presentations to be made at Mass.

### Jan. 24-28
Initial mailing to all parishes of God’s Gift Appeal materials:
- GGA 2022 Manual, Posters, Goal Charts, Brochures, extra pledge cards, envelopes and DVD.

### Feb. 12-13
**Kick-Off Weekend** – Pastor or Celebrant to speak at all Masses
(Use Pulpit Presentation #1 on page 16 as a guide OR show the Bishop’s GGA DVD in Church proper during Mass).

### Feb. 19-20
**Education Weekend** Lay Leader(s) to speak at all Masses.
(Use Pulpit Presentation #2 on page 17 as a guide OR show Bishop’s GGA DVD in church proper during Mass).
- Place additional brochures in pews and at church entrance(s).

### Feb. 21-25
Diocesan-wide GGA mailing to every registered household includes:
- Personalized Appeal Letters from Bishop Folda
- Personalized Pledge Card and Return Envelope with Appeal Brochure
- Place additional brochures in pews and at church entrance(s).

### Feb. 26-27
**Commitment Weekend** Pastor or Celebrant to speak at all Masses.
(At all Masses, use Pulpit Presentation #3 as a guide on page 18).
- Place extra Appeal pledge cards and return envelopes in pews and entrances.
- Volunteers set up after all Masses to meet with parishioners who have questions or need assistance.

### Mar. 5-6
**1st Follow-up Weekend** Pastor or Celebrant to speak at all Masses.
(At all Masses, use Pulpit Presentation #4 as a guide on page 19.)
- Place extra Appeal pledge cards and return envelopes in pews and entrances.

### Mar. 7-11
Pastors send **Pastor’s Follow-up Letter** to the Stewardship and Development Office this week.

### Mar. 12-13
**2nd Follow-up Weekend** Pastor or Celebrant to speak at all Masses.
(At all Masses, use Pulpit Presentation #5 as a guide on page 19.)
- Place extra Appeal pledge cards and return envelopes in pews and entrances.

### Mar. 28
Diocese sends Pastor’s follow-up letter to all non-contributors.

### April 25
Diocese sends Bishop’s follow-up letter to all non-contributors.
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**Kick-off Weekend**  
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**Prepare Bulletin and Pulpit announcements for Commitment Weekend**

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**Diocese-wide God’s Gift Appeal Bishop’s letter and personalized pledge card mailed to all registered households this week.**

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**Education Weekend**  
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**Commitment Weekend**  
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*Pastors, send your follow-up letters to the Diocese by March 7th.*

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*Diocese mails Pastor’s follow-up letter on your parish letterhead to your parishioners.*

*Diocese mails Bishop’s follow-up letter to all non-contributors this week.*
**Stewardship Prayer**

Lord God, we thank You for the untold blessings You have bestowed upon us. We offer these blessings back to You. We lay before You the labors and fruits of God’s Gift Appeal. We pray that our sole desire be to serve Your holy will. United as Catholics, let us be reminded of our baptismal call to follow our Lord Jesus Christ in His service to others. We make our prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen.
Tips for a Successful Appeal

- **Be prepared** and have a good understanding of how the gifts to the GGA benefit the many ministries it supports.

- Show **strong, active leadership** and involvement of the pastor.

- Recruit an **effective GGA leadership committee**.

- **Strive for high participation** by pointing out that every person is asked to respond to the appeal.

- Suggest a **specific, increased gift**. Tithing guideline is 5% to Parish, 1% to Diocese, and 4% to other charities.

- **Emphasize pledges** rather than one-time gifts.

- Use and prominently **display publicity materials**.

- **Conduct a follow-up effort** and include components designed to reach a high level of participation.

- **Education and communication!** When GGA volunteers understand the importance for all of the vital programs made possible by the GGA and share this information with parishioners, the appeal is sure to be successful.

- **Show gratitude!** We cannot say thank you enough to those who support the GGA. Look for opportunities to thank them again. Remember that the success of every future appeal depends on this simple yet powerful gesture.

- **Emphasize** that the God’s Gift Appeal DVD (Bishop Folda’s message) can be viewed again at [http://www.fargodiocese.org/godsgiftappeal](http://www.fargodiocese.org/godsgiftappeal).
A particularly effective tactic in conducting God’s Gift Appeal in your parish is to use a lay speaker. Your pastor needs to show his support of God’s Gift Appeal, but whenever possible it is good to have a layperson give a short talk on why they support the appeal.

Who is the ideal candidate to recruit for a lay talk?

Who you recruit can be as much a key to your success as what they will say. First and foremost, you need to choose someone who does support diocesan ministries. The amount is not as important as their willingness to give. People will identify with someone like themselves. Consider the demographics of your parishioners in your choice. Ideally, you will want someone who is fairly well known to your congregation. Perhaps this is a well-known volunteer, or someone who is very active in the life of the parish. Ultimately, you will want someone who can speak from the heart—their sincerity will speak volumes.

What should our lay witness speak about?

The focus of the talk can vary depending on your parish’s circumstances. Have them use that opportunity to share their presentation with the Pastor. In this way, you can minimize miscommunication and avoid surprises.

How diocesan ministries impact your parish will dictate to an extent what potential topics you can cover. For example, a parish with a school will have different things to focus on than a parish without a school.

- Sharing their personal story of why they support the church.
- Including some things locally that were made possible by the diocese. (Some examples you can use are listed below.)
- Talking about their pastor being trained by the diocese and how our vocation program helps bring us more priests.

The possibilities are endless. In closing have the speaker thank their audience for listening. Encourage the speaker to be brief and share from the heart and they will do fine. If you need assistance, contact the Stewardship and Development Office, we will be happy to assist you!

Consider some of the following questions under each category. These may reveal a connection you never thought of before.

Clergy and Religious

Your pastor or parochial vicar was assigned to your parish by the bishop, this is an obvious connection. Has your pastor participated in a recent priest continuing education seminar?
Does your parish have a member who is currently in the seminary? The diocese is responsible to recruit, train and form seminarians who will be our future priests. Highlight any of these men if they are from your parish, or have served there during their formation.

Does your parish have a permanent deacon or a person in training? Deacons are trained by the diocese. If you have either a deacon or an aspirant, consider highlighting him and his training and formation program.

Does your parish have a former pastor who is now retired and receiving a diocesan pension and healthcare coverage? Update your parish on this priest and his activities.

**Pastoral Ministries**

Does your parish have an RCIA program? Do your catechumens participate in the Rite of Election at the Cathedral each year? How many participated?

Has your parish remodeled or added on to its worship space? The curia offers the services of staff members with a great deal of knowledge in this area to aid in these undertakings.

Has anyone in your parish taken advantage of a Marriage Preparation Weekend or a Marriage Enrichment Program? These ministries are coordinated by the curia Office for Marriage and Family Life.

Does your parish have a youth ministry program? Has your youth group attended a diocesan sponsored youth program?

**Education Ministries**

Do you have a Catholic school? What services can your principal identify that the Office for Catholic Education provided? Has your school been evaluated recently?

Ask your parish’s Director/Coordinator of Religious Education about religious education services offered by the curia.

Are any of your members involved with one of our Newman Centers? These serve a number of our young people and receive a portion of their operating budget from God’s Gift Appeal.

**Finance and Administration**

Has your parish ever taken out a loan from the diocesan Deposit and Loan Fund? Parishes have saved money from lower interest payments over the years because of this program.

Has your parish taken part in an increased offertory campaign? The Office of Stewardship and Development offers assistance in conducting these and other fund raising endeavors.

This list is by no means comprehensive; instead, it is intended to present the diocese in a different way to your people. A clearer understanding of the diocese and how it relates to your home parish should make promoting God’s Gift Appeal a little easier for you and your fellow parishioners.
Good morning/afternoon/evening. My name is _______________. My family and I have been parishioners at ________________ for _______ years. I am pleased to help our parish, pastor ________________ and diocese by speaking with you this weekend about God’s Gift Appeal.

God’s Gift Appeal is an opportunity for all of us to support the ministries of our diocesan church. Every February we are invited to support the mission of the Gospel by helping to fund the programs and ministries of the diocese.

I support God’s Gift Appeal because ________________. (This can be a personal reason or something unique about your parish. This will probably be the majority of your talk. If you are having trouble deciding, look over the section of this manual on diocesan/parish connections for ideas. Some suggestions follow:)

• One of the most visible things you support through the God’s Gift Appeal is our vocations program. Fr. ________________’s seminary education was paid for by the diocese and through the generous support of people just like us. (If your pastor is from the area or if you have a seminarian from your parish, bring that to people’s attention)
• In our last church renovation the diocese loaned our parish the funds we needed to complete the project. The rate of interest on the loan was significantly lower than other financial institutions.
• The Catholic Education and Formation Office assisted our school with strategic planning to help us plan for our future.

In many ways we at ________________ parish have benefited from the generosity of those who came before us. Now it is our turn to help the Church continue moving forward. We connect with the Church through our parish, but our parish could not exist if it were not for the diocese.

Please prayerfully consider making a generous donation to the God’s Gift Appeal. Your gift will benefit not only the diocese but also our local parish and the other 128 parishes of our diocese. Thank you for your time.
Please, **use your own words and examples**. Remain faithful to the theme of the appeal.

The Appeal is a diocesan ministry campaign. The Appeal’s success is directly related to how you define the connection between your parish and the Diocese of Fargo.

**Definition of a Good Steward** – Good stewards generously return a portion of all God has given to them, as “*Good Stewards of God’s Grace.*” They contribute to the ongoing building of His kingdom on earth. As good stewards, we work towards the fullness of His life for us by giving of our ‘first fruits.’ **Our goal is scriptural tithing, 10%** of the first fruits. (cf. Gen 14:17-20).

Here is a suggested formula for distributing tithes:

- 5% to the parish
- 4% to charitable interests that support Catholic teaching
- 1% to the Diocese of Fargo

The faithful want to know about tithing guidelines…so ask them to look at what they are giving now… then you, very kindly, ask them to move closer to where they ought to be.
Suggestions for Priest Remarks

- Plan to support the appeal yourself this year, talk about why you decided to give, be in touch with those reasons that motivated you and share them with parishioners.

- The needs met by the GGA cross wide boundaries. Funds are provided for a variety of religious and charitable services and programs throughout the 30-county Diocese of Fargo and beyond.

- Talk about how the GGA is more than an ordinary collection or appeal. It is a way for every Catholic in our church to show their love and generosity in a way that helps the Diocese of Fargo to provide for those in need.

- The God’s Gift Appeal happens every year because there is an ongoing need. You are asked to support this appeal each year to help meet those needs. The diocesan church carries out the mission to serve the people of Eastern North Dakota through varied ministries and services.

- There are a number of priorities and needs facing our diocesan church that a single parish alone cannot address. Some needs require the strength and resolve of our entire Catholic community working and sacrificing as one body. This is why every church participates in the God’s Gift Appeal, so that we-through our collective efforts-can continue building the Father’s Kingdom by advancing the work of the Church.

- While we cannot always be the one to comfort the grieving, feed the hungry, teach the young, and minister to those in need, through our generosity we can ensure that our diocesan church is strong, vibrant and able to meet the needs of many in the years ahead.

- Each of our parishes has been asked to reach a goal which is set in order that, together, we may accept the financial responsibility for many necessary diocesan services. Our parish goal this year has been set at $_________. I hope that each one of us shares in a combined effort to reach this goal.

- You will hear more about the Appeal next weekend. **Education Weekend** is February 19-20. I humbly ask you to open your hearts to the Holy Spirit. In gratitude, become aware of the many good works happening throughout the diocese.
Lay witnessing is an important component to a successful GGA. Testimonials delivered to the entire congregation by a member of the parish whose life has been impacted by a diocesan service or ministry can have a positive effect on how people in the parish view the diocesan church. Too often people do not see diocesan services and ministries at work in the parish. A personal witness can clearly show an example of the benefits of supporting the diocese.

**Welcome/Introduction of Lay Witness**

This morning/evening we welcome [Parishioner’s Name], a fellow member of our parish, who will speak to us about the upcoming God’s Gift Appeal. [Parishioner’s Name] will share thoughts on why this initiative is important to them, to our parish, and to our diocese. Please give [Parishioner’s Name] a warm welcome.

**General Tips for Lay Witness Talks**

- Prepare your remarks ahead of time, and try to keep them five minutes or less.

- Write your talk as you would speak it. Be able to deliver it in a comfortable and conversational manner.

- Introduce yourself and your association with the parish.

- Talk briefly about yourself/family, how long you have been in the parish, and any leadership role you may have in parish life. There will be some who may not know who you are.

- After you introduce yourself, let the congregation know how long you will talk. It will help them relax and listen.

- One key to a good talk is to smile while speaking, and don’t be afraid to add a bit of humor.

- Make sure that you tell people that you are going to support the appeal and why. This is a sign of leadership and willingness to practice what you preach.
The last two weekends we’ve heard about the God’s Gift Appeal. We are counting on you, as members of our parish family, to contribute. It’s for the common good of all people within our Diocese of Fargo.

I completely support the annual appeal. I have assured Bishop Folda that [Parish Name] will do everything within our power to make the Appeal successful. The specifics of the Appeal have been outlined in the brochures that you’ll find at the end of the pews.

All of the God’s Gift Appeal materials have been mailed to your homes. You’ve had almost two weeks to prayerfully consider your response. Today I pray that you will place your pledge card and envelope in the collection basket.

If, by chance, you didn’t bring it along, today is your lucky day! We have conveniently placed blank pledge cards and envelopes at the end of the pews.

Next weekend is the last opportunity that I’ll directly ask for your support. After that, the diocese will contact you directly. I’d prefer that all households at [Parish Name] respond today or next weekend. Please unite together in this effort. We want to complete the Appeal as quickly and successfully as possible.

I wish to emphasize the spiritual effect this Appeal has. Every year, the God’s Gift Appeal 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 his disciples. More than 40 Catholic ministries supported by God’s Gift Appeal allow us to fulfill that duty.

God has especially blessed us in the Diocese of Fargo. Our members, past and present, have been sharing their gifts, strengths and talents by serving our parish, diocese and beyond. My wish is that each family will stretch their generosity and make a gift from their substance and not merely out of convenience or from your surplus. The God’s Gift Appeal is based on equal sacrifice, not equal giving – 1% of income is a different amount for every family. Let your gift reflect the generosity that God has shown you.

Thank you for your consideration and participation.
Thanks to everyone who has already supported the God's Gift Appeal this year. I am inspired by your generosity. I thank our many parish leaders for helping [Parish Name] get off to a good start. Ultimately, your participation will make the 2022 God's Gift Appeal campaign successful.

So far, _______ percent of [Parish Name]'s households have given gifts and pledges. If you have not already supported the appeal I ask that you do so today, as soon as you get home or by completing a pledge card found in the back of the church (gathering space or wherever it is). Thank you, to all who have turned in your pledge cards. In addition, thanks to all who are in the process of preparing a pledge card today. Bishop Folda also extends his gratitude. He thanks you for helping to make the 2022 God's Gift Appeal a success.

Thanks to all who have chosen to support the God’s Gift Appeal. So far, _______ percent of [Parish Name]’s households have given gifts and pledges. We are very encouraged at this point but still need the rest of the parish to support the appeal. Last year we had _______ families participating, which were only ______% of households. Ideally, we’d like to have 100% participation. This year we want to increase the number of households participating to at least _______ families. This is attainable. If everyone who participated last year, plus _______ more families respond, we can reach our financial and participation goals. Every gift counts and matters.

For those who haven’t returned your pledge card, I ask you to please do so soon. This will help us to complete the Appeal in a timely manner and save mailing costs.

Allow me to join Bishop Folda in saying, “Thank you for making the 2022 God's Gift Appeal a success.”
Dear <<Name(s)>>,

The God’s Gift Appeal campaign is very active in all parishes throughout the Diocese of Fargo and I am happy to announce that _______% of [Parish Name]’s registered households have contributed thus far. This is an encouraging start and I am asking you to join your fellow parishioners in supporting this Appeal with a generous pledge payable over the next eight months. We need your support because your contribution will make a difference!

“The GRACE of our Lord has been Abundant.” – 1 Timothy 1:14

Your gift to the God’s Gift Appeal will provide funding for 47 Catholic outreach ministries that help people throughout our diocese. I am hopeful that every household in our parish will take an active role in this effort. Many of our <<Parish Name>> families and individuals have been able to make a more substantial gift by pledging over the next eight months. I’m asking you to consider a contribution of 1% of your income to the God’s Gift Appeal.

The success of the appeal depends on your active response in faith. As good stewards of God’s gifts, we are called to return to Him a share of the gifts he has given us. Your gift will help those in need. Your stewardship is a witness of your faith in Him. Thank you for your compassion and generosity.

If my letter and your pledge to the Appeal have crossed in the mail, I extend my sincere thanks and ask for your continued prayers for our parish and the diocese. Please encourage others to serve one another as good stewards and support our diocese.

Thank you for all that you continue to do for His Church. May God bless you and your loved ones and keep all in His care.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

SIGNATURE
Pastor, parish/mission name

**GGA Note:** Pastors, after we receive your approval of this letter or your personal letter we’ll do the rest. We will have it printed on your parish’s letterhead with your signature, which we have on file, and sent to your parishioners’ homes. **Before March 31, 2022, US Mail, email or fax your letter to us.** Fax 701-356-7998.

*Have questions? Call Steve Schons at 701-356-7926.*
Dear <<Name(s)>>,

You are special among the members of our faith community at <<Parish Name>>. I specifically appeal to you to help us meet our goal for the God's Gift Appeal 2022. I see the Appeal as “our” Appeal. This is an effort of and for all the priests, religious and laity of the Diocese of Fargo. The God’s Gift Appeal ensures that more than 40 Catholic outreach ministries will continue helping all of us bring the Good News of Jesus Christ to Eastern North Dakota and beyond.

The God's Gift Appeal supports the works of: Vocations and Seminary Education, Marriage Preparation, Family Life Ministry, Catholic Schools, Newman Student Centers, Youth Evangelization and Ministry, Pro-Life Ministry, Permanent Diaconate, Media and Communications, Rural Life and Migrant Programs, Guardianship Services, Pregnancy and Adoption Services and more. These are programs that cannot be funded or operated by our parish alone. These require the cooperation of every parishioner in every parish of our Diocese of Fargo.

I urge you to join other parishioners who have already committed their support, <<Name(s)>> your support of these ministries is urgent. Your gift will help those in need. If you have not contributed in the past to God's Gift Appeal, I now, humbly ask for your support this year. Together we can do great things for Christ's Church.

“The GRACE of our Lord has been Abundant.” 1 Timothy 1:14

Thank you for your good works and ongoing support of <<Parish Name>>. Thank you for your personal commitment to the ministries that affect those within our diocese and the universal Church. May our Lord continue to abundantly bless you and your loved ones.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

SIGNATURE
Pastor, Parish/Mission Name

_GGA note: Pastors, after we receive your approval of this letter or your personal letter we’ll do the rest. We will have it printed on your parish’s letterhead with your signature, which we have on file, and sent to your parishioners’ homes before March 31, 2022, US Mail, email or fax your letter to us. Fax 701-356-7998._

Have Questions? Call Steve Schons at 701-356-7926._
May God continue to bless (Parish name) and the Diocese of Fargo; strengthen our faith, and grant us a spirit of oneness by opening our hearts to the God’s Gift Appeal. We pray to the Lord.

For all Catholics throughout Eastern North Dakota; may we be one in the good will of Christ by supporting the works of the God’s Gift Appeal. We pray to the Lord.

For each of us at this Mass; in oneness may we put into action our love for God, by responding to the needs of others through the God’s Gift Appeal. We pray to the Lord.

May we, the faithful of (Parish Name), unite our support for the diocesan mission and ministries by participating in the God’s Gift Appeal. We pray to the Lord.

For us, the faithful of (Parish Name); may we respond as one to the God’s Gift Appeal and in gratitude return to God a fair portion of all he has placed in our lives. We pray to the Lord.

May our gifts to the God’s Gift Appeal properly reflect our gratitude for the graces that God has given us. We pray to the Lord.

For all who have responded to the God’s Gift Appeal, that their generosity may be rewarded with the growth, love and joy that giving generously brings. We pray to the Lord.

For all who are in need within our Diocese of Fargo; may we be grateful stewards of the many graces that God has given to us and support the God’s Gift Appeal. We pray to the Lord.

For the ministries and agencies supported by our contributions to the God’s Gift Appeal; may their works be fruitful as they continue to serve our communities in need. We pray to the Lord.
This bulletin announcement should appear in your February 19-20 issue:
(Weekend prior to Commitment Weekend)

Next weekend, ____________, is Commitment Weekend for the 2022 God’s Gift Appeal. Please bring the personalized commitment card you received in the mail to Mass with you as we join together to support our Catholic Church.

This bulletin announcement should appear in your February 26-27 issue:
(Commitment Weekend)

This weekend is Commitment Weekend for the 2022 God’s Gift Appeal. Our parish goal is $__________. Please complete your pledge card, indicating your gift or pledge to our diocesan church. If you do not have a card, please fill out a commitment card located in the __________. It is important for all of us to participate in order to support our diocesan church.

This bulletin announcement should appear in your March 5-6 issue:
(Weekend after Commitment Weekend)

Last weekend was our parish Commitment Weekend for the 2022 God’s Gift Appeal. If you have not yet completed your card, please prayerfully make your pledge and return it to the church office. We would like 100% participation in sharing Christ’s mission in the Diocese of Fargo.

This bulletin announcement should appear in March 5-6 and March 12-13 issues:
(Use until the parish goal is reached)

Thanks to all our parishioners who have made their gift to the 2022 God’s Gift Appeal. ____________ _____ (parish name) is ________% towards our goal of $_______________. If you have not yet made a gift or pledge, please fill out a commitment card located in the ________. Please participate in the support of our diocesan church.

This bulletin announcement should appear when your parish reaches its goal:

Thank you to all of you who responded so generously to the annual God’s Gift Appeal. Each year the success of this appeal depends on you. Your support is greatly appreciated in both your parish and the diocesan church. It is when we grow as a community of believers that we help to assure that those who provide services through the diocesan church will be able to continue Christ’s work here in the Diocese of Fargo.
A significant portion of these programs and services are funded by God’s Gift Appeal. Other income sources are grants, programming income (class or book fees), interest income, endowments, and other donations. Below is the list of 47 Catholic outreach ministries that help people throughout our diocese.

Bishops Office
Bishop's Residence
Vicar for Clergy/VG
Priests Council
Chancellor's Office
Liturgy
Finance Office
Parish Services Department
Stewardship & Development
Technology
Human Resources
Properties
Pastoral Center
Marriage Tribunal
CEF - Administration
CEF - Adult Catechesis & Evangelization
CEF - Youth Catechesis
CEF - Young Disciples
CEF - Special Needs Catechesis
CEF - Youth & Young Adult Ministry
CEF - Catholic Schools Office
CEF - Catholic Schools Subsidy
CEF - Health Care Ministry
CEF - Respect Life Office
CEF - Marriage & Family Life Office
Communications & New Earth
Catholic Communications Campaign
Catholic Relief Services
Catholic University
Newman Center – Fargo
Newman Center – Grand Forks
Catholic Charities ND
Migrant Program
Vocations Office
Seminarian Education
Permanent Diaconate - Pre
Permanent Diaconate - Post
Continuing Education for Priests
Spiritual Direction for Priests
Graduate Studies - Priests
Priests Disability
Priests Mutual Aid Fund
USCCB & Canon 1271
North Dakota Catholic Conference
Ecumenical Commission
Rural Life Conference/Program
Cathedral Support

- CEF = Catholic Education and Formation

To inquire about projected expenses for fiscal year 2022-2023 please contact Steve Schons at 701-356-7926.
The goal of $3,421,865 provides partial funding/support for the following:

Office of the Bishop
The Bishop, Most Reverend John Folda, as part of his ministry to the people of the Diocese of Fargo, visits parishes for confirmations, pastoral visits, and special events, and serves on boards, such as the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB). This helps defray the cost of travel and other expenses incurred for these ministries. Normal office expenses such as postage, office supplies, books, periodicals, telephone and building upkeep and his administrative assistant are included in this cost.

The Bishop is assisted in his apostolic ministry by the Vicar General and the Chancellor.

Vicar General’s Office
The Vicar General, Msgr. Joseph Goering, may act in the name of, and with the authority of, the Bishop according to Canon Law. He explicitly represents the Bishop in the life and ministry of the priests and deacons. He oversees a number of diocesan entities and serves as Moderator of the Curia, the ecclesiastical manager for the diocesan offices. Normal office expenses and his administrative assistant are included in this cost.

Chancellor’ Office
The Chancellor, the Mr. Timothy Olson, and his administrative assistant are responsible for the diocesan archives, keeping records and tracking data for the parishes and diocese, providing instruction and assistance with liturgical matters, coordinating Confirmation schedules and processes permission for marriage requests.

Liturgy Office
The Vice Chancellor, Rev. Jayson Miller, serves as a resource for the parishes and staff within the Diocese providing instruction and assistance with liturgical matters, coordinating confirmation schedules, assisting the Bishop by processing permissions for Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion and publishing guidelines for liturgical celebrations.

Major Seminary/Vocations
The Vocation Director, Rev. Kyle Metzger, is primarily responsible for the promotion of vocations and the support, both financially and spiritually, of men who are in the seminary. The office seeks to increase awareness of the vocation of priesthood through various means, including promotion of National Vocation Awareness Week, informational retreat weekends at local seminaries, and the distribution of Vocation posters and prayer cards. The Vocation Office aids those who are applying for entrance into the seminary by assisting with college/seminary applications and other forms and requirements for admission. Once accepted, the office becomes responsible for supporting the men in their studies and discernment of the priesthood. Finally, the office coordinates and promotes the seminarian’s ordination to the diaconate and priesthood.
Newman Centers
The Diocese of Fargo has established two campus ministry centers and actively supports these teams, programs and facilities. A Newman Center is located at North Dakota State University – Fargo, and at University of North Dakota – Grand Forks. Campus ministry exists to form Christian community, to foster leadership, to serve and to be a prophetic voice of the Roman Catholic Church in higher education. The Newman Centers offer opportunities for Eucharistic celebrations, various programs of sacramental preparation and formation in social justice. Spiritual counseling and sacramental ministry are available at the campus ministry sites.

Catholic Schools
The 14 Catholic schools in the diocese are invaluable instruments of evangelization and catechesis as they communicate God’s Word to students and families by word and witness. The Superintendent of Catholic Schools and support staff provides oversight and direction that enhance leadership roles for principals, teachers, board members, and school administrators.

School Grants
School grants are provided as a subsidy for all students from the Diocese of Fargo attending a Catholic school. The 14 diocesan Catholic schools receive about $25 per student to assist where the need is greatest.

Continuing Education for Priests
To provide for the continuing formation and education of our priests, annual retreats, education days, Presbyteral days, and on-going formation through the Institute for Priestly Formation are provided.

Evangelization & Catechesis
This office promotes the first sharing of the Gospel and its call to turn away from sin and towards God. It also puts people in intimate communion with Jesus Christ. It assists parishes with catechesis literature, curriculums, evangelization outreach, and Religious Education and Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults programs.

Youth & Young Adult Office & Young Disciples Apostolate
Youth & Young Adult Office works with individuals, parishes and schools to help young people develop an enduring relationship with Jesus and discover their place in the Church and in the modern world. This office coordinates the Senior High Celebration and the Junior High Rally. It is also involved with the Catholic Youth Advisory Council, Boy and Girl Scout Awards, MI Camp, Heart Camp, and a variety of other events. Young Disciples is a young adult apostolate that trains young adults to provide week-long Catholic summer Bible camps for children in parishes across the diocese.

Tribunal
After a civil divorce, people in need of an annulment can turn to the Tribunal for study of their marriage. Through this ministry, the Tribunal seeks to bring healing to those who are hurting, health to those who are struggling, and communion to those who are separated from the Catholic Church.

Stewardship & Development
This office coordinates and conducts the annual God’s Gift Appeal. It also assists parishes in stewardship education as well as enhancing parish offertories. The office also assists parishes with establishing endowments. The director meets one-on-one with individuals who wish to make planned or estate gifts to benefit worthy Catholic causes throughout the Diocese of Fargo.
Communications
This office manages diocesan communications with Catholic and secular news media and the public. It also produces the diocesan publication, the New Earth. The director serves as media liaison for the Bishop, Chancellor, Vicar General and others, and serves as diocesan spokesperson for various matters.

Respect Life Office
The mission of the Respect Life Office is to proclaim and defend a fundamental truth of our faith: The God-given inviolable dignity of every person. By utilizing the resources of the universal Church, this office strives to foster the Culture of Life by means of education and prayer. Specific departments within this office include: prolife, post-abortion care, chastity education, fertility appreciation, and end-of-life.

Catholic Charities North Dakota
Catholic Charities North Dakota (CCND) is committed to providing quality services to families and individuals throughout North Dakota regardless of religion, race, age, gender or ability to pay. Some of CCND’s services include: infant adoption, pregnancy services, counseling, guardianship and adoption of children with special needs.

Permanent Diaconate
A permanent deacon is a man ordained to a ministry of service. The deacon’s service is threefold: service of the Word (proclaiming the Gospel message, teaching, conducting retreats, counseling), service of the altar (witnessing marriages, baptisms, presiding at wakes and funerals, conducting prayer services) and service of charity (serving the poor, giving voice to those who are silenced, being involved with social justice). The Permanent Diaconate Program for the Diocese of Fargo was founded in 1978. There are currently 47 ordained permanent deacons and several more are in formation.

There are additional worthy ministries supported as a result of your generosity to the annual God’s Gift Appeal. For more information, see pages 24-25 or call the Stewardship and Development Office at 701-356-7926.
To expedite the remittance of pledges/gifts and up-to-date information from each parish to the diocese, the following procedure has been established.

- The Office of Stewardship & Development will provide each parish with several self-addressed Tyvek security “mailing bags.”
- The weekend of February 26-27, each parish will begin receiving pledges from their members through the Sunday offertory collection for several weeks.
- Pledges should be collected from all Masses and placed in one or more “Mailing Bags.” Keep this simple and easy; **PLEASE DO NOT OPEN ANY PLEDGE ENVELOPES**. It is the responsibility of the Diocesan Office of Stewardship and Development to open all envelopes, record all gifts, and to insure the amount is correctly posted on each donors giving history.
- The Parish Secretary should send the “Mailing Bag” containing the pledges (via the Sunday offertory, pledges dropped off at the parish office, etc.) to the diocese. Some gifts are made with cash payment. However, any of the Fargo and West Fargo parishes may bring their “Mailing Bags” directly to the Chancery to save mailing costs, if desired.
- If your parish has a mission(s), you may place all pledges in one “Mailing Bag.” We ask that pledges from different parishes and missions be separated within the “Mailing Bag.”
- Alert those who count your collections to view the pay-to-the-order-of line and the memo line on checks and make special note of checks made payable to **God’s Gift Appeal**. Some parishioners have placed their pledge check into the parish collection basket and received credit for a parish donation. This causes confusion and concern when donors get their statement from God’s Gift Appeal showing a remaining balance. Thank you for your help in this sensitive matter.
SAMPLE PLEDGE CARD

GOD'S GIFT APPEAL 2022 • DIOCESE OF FARGO

In thanksgiving and gratitude for all God's gifts, I/we give:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Gift</th>
<th>8 Monthly Payments</th>
<th>Total Gift</th>
<th>8 Monthly Payments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$10,000</td>
<td>$1,250</td>
<td>$1,250</td>
<td>$10,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$7,500</td>
<td>$940</td>
<td>$800</td>
<td>$750</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$5,000</td>
<td>$625</td>
<td>$400</td>
<td>$50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$2,500</td>
<td>$315</td>
<td>$200</td>
<td>$25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$1,000</td>
<td>$125</td>
<td>Other $</td>
<td>$125</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

TOTAL GIFT AMOUNT $ 

AMOUNT ENCLOSED $

MONTHLY PAYMENT AMOUNT $ 

☐ Cash 
☐ Check (Payable to God's Gift Appeal) 
☐ Credit/Debit/EFT (see reverse side)

I hereby make the following gift/pledge solely for the ministries and uses specifically identified in the 2022 God's Gift Appeal.

Payment Method: Credit/Debit Card or EFT

☐ One-Time Gift 
☐ 8 Monthly Payments (not to exceed December 2022)

☐ MasterCard 
☐ Visa 
☐ Discover 
☐ American Express

Credit Card # ___________________________ Exp. Date ___/___

Billing Address __________________________

☐ EFT (electronic funds transfer) ☐ Checking ☐ Savings

Routing # ___________________________

Account # ___________________________

☐ Please attach a voided check

Authorization required for Credit Card or EFT payments:
I authorize the Diocese of Fargo and Vance Services, LLC to debit my account or charge my credit card in accordance with the information specified on this form. I understand that this authority will remain in effect until I provide reasonable notification to terminate the authorization.

Signature Required __________________________

Date __________________________

Declaration for Stock/Property Gifts:
Name of Stock __________________________
Number of Shares __________________________
Real Estate Type __________________________
Grain Type __________________________
Livestock Type __________________________

The above gifts are subject to the Diocesan Gift Acceptance policy.