

Points for a ShareLife homily or pulpit announcement
Weekend of March 17/18, April 21/22 or May 26/27

As we approach each collection of the 2018 ShareLife campaign, we offer the following points for consideration to use as part of a ShareLife homily or announcement prior to the collection. We are grateful to Bishop Robert Kasun, CSB for providing these points for our use.

1. By virtue of our baptism, we are all called to ministry in the Church. Pope Francis continuously calls us to exercise our ministry in the service of our sisters and brothers who are poor, needy and marginalized in society.
2. Our Church has opted to stand in solidarity with the poor. That means all our members are called to do the same. It does not mean service to the poor is optional. It means we, as a Church, have opted to do so. Standing in solidarity with the poor is part of our Christian identity and mission.
3. So much of the Gospel message describes Jesus' love, care, compassion and empowerment of the poor. As we conform our minds and hearts evermore to his, particularly during the Lenten season, we will want to do the same.
4. Gratitude is a significant plank in the spirituality of generosity, which is sometimes called the spirituality of Christian stewardship. The more we express our gratitude to God for all the blessings we receive, one at a time, the more we will desire to share with those who have less than we do. After all, we come to recognize that "all is gift from God." We have a responsibility to share God's gifts as best we can.
5. As Catholics, we do not think of contributing to ShareLife simply as giving to a need. After all, the needs are endless and we will never satisfy them all. Rather, as Catholics, we have a need to give for our own spiritual fulfillment. So "we do not give to need, we have a need to give." Think about it!
6. Even prior to the first ShareLife collection, individuals and families are invited to decide ahead of time how much to contribute to this year's appeal. A donation given that way will likely be more generous and fulfilling than one given "from what is left over," after all other commitments and expenses have been paid.
7. The annual ShareLife appeal is our principal Archdiocesan response to the call of the Gospel and that of Pope Francis to serve the needs of the poor. Our generosity includes not only the gift of "treasure," but also the gifts of "time and talent" to the various agencies. Will you be a part of it?
8. Perhaps most importantly, express your personal support and encouragement of ShareLife. Say thank you over and over again to the parishioners, both from the pulpit and the bulletin, where you can provide ongoing information about how much the parish has raised relative to your target amount.
9. Pray for the success of our mission and for the deepening of our Christian identity. Both will contribute to the Church's mission of evangelization.
10. Announce to parishioners that you personally intend to contribute this year, and invite your parishioners, if possible, to join you in supporting ShareLife. If you are comfortable doing so, announce the amount of your contribution and invite parishioners to match this. You might be surprised at how many actually do it!