**SAMPLE PASTOR’S ACA LETTER**

*Note: Letter should be on parish stationery, and include photo of pastor if possible.*

February 2021

Name of parish

Address

City, State, Zip

Dear [parishioner],

Each year we are invited to participate in our Annual Catholic Appeal (ACA), which is an opportunity for all of us to support essential ministries and services which benefit many in our Local Church. The theme of this year’s appeal, **Renewing Hope**, calls to mind what we experience in giving as well as what others experience in receiving. This is especially important after all that we have experienced collectively in the past year due to the pandemic.

The enclosed brochure describes the many programs and ministries that are supported by your contribution to the Annual Catholic Appeal and how the funds are designated. Many of these programs result in important direct benefits to our parish faith community and others provide needed assistance to people around us. We can only do this work by joining together as a Catholic Community. Our parish directly benefits from your donation in so many ways.

This includes making affordable and accessible Catholic School education available to every child and family who desires it.

The ACA provides funding for ministries such as Evangelization and Catechetical, Youth and Young Adults, Prison, Family, Life and Spirituality, Life, Peace and Justice, and the Diocesan Institute.

Catholic Charities is supported by the ACA in its effort to promote the dignity of the human person.

Finally, the ACA provides support for seminary formation programs, also funds continuing education and pastoral care for active and retired priests and deacons.

The funds collected during our ACA help the diocese to provide these services and benefits in addition to the many new costs associated with our pandemic response.

This year our parish share is $\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. I am confident that we can reach this target and possibly exceed it. Any amount that is received over our target will be returned to our parish to be used as we designate.

Therefore, I invite you to prayerfully consider your response as a faithful steward of the gifts which God has joyfully bestowed on you. You may use the enclosed Response Card to make your pledge and return it in the weekend collection or to the parish office. You may also go to [giving.sdcatholic.org](http://www.giving.sdcatholic.org) for more information or to make a secure online pledge or donation.

We invite you to mail your check to the parish with your pledge card or go directly online to make your pledge or donation to the diocesan website at: <https://www.sdcatholic.org/giving/annual-catholic-appeal/> or to our parish website at:

[www.xxxxxxxx.org](http://www.xxxxxxxx.org)

If you cannot donate at this time, we ask you to pray for a successful 2021 Annual Catholic Appeal for our parish.

Your participation, regardless of the amount, makes a difference. Your generosity brings hope and joy to all those who benefit from your gift. Be assured of my gratitude for your support and of my continuing prayers for you and your loved ones.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

< Pastor’s name and signature>