

Speaker Manual



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SUGGESTIONS FOR PREPARING YOUR TALK

START WITH THE BASICS

- Begin by introducing yourself and explaining how the seminary has directly impacted you.

LESS IS MORE

- Keep your presentation less than five minutes in duration.

WRITERS BLOCK?

- Try working from a script or an outline.
- Speak about aspects of the seminary that really inspire you.
- Share a personal story of how St. Charles Seminary has prepared you for your life of service.
- Explain why supporting the annual Seminary Appeal is important.

SPEAK FROM THE HEART!

- You have a unique perspective and parishioners want to hear it! Tailor your presentation to fit your style and experience.

PRACTICE. PRACTICE. PRACTICE.

- Rehearse your presentation aloud in front of a mirror.
- Deliver your talk to a family member or friend and ask for their critique.

REMEMBER THE APPEAL

- Thank the parishioners for their past support of the Seminary Appeal and encourage them to renew their support this year.
- Share the impact that their support has on you personally.
- Emphasize that giving enables us to return a portion of the blessings we receive from God.
- If you have personally supported the Seminary Appeal, tell the parishioners what motivates you to give.
- Inform parishioners that they can make their gift using the provided pledge envelopes.

ITEMS TO CONSIDER

BEFORE YOU ARRIVE

Call the Pastor or parish contact person at least one week before you are scheduled to speak to introduce yourself and confirm the details of your assignment.

Please confirm the following with the Pastor or parish contact person:

- Re-confirm the weekend when you will be speaking.
- Ask where and with whom you should check in upon your arrival.
- Obtain a contact number in case of emergency.
- If you need overnight accommodations, discuss the details and any additional arrangements.
- Confirm the Mass schedule and whether you will be speaking at every Mass.
- If the parish offers Masses in languages other than English, confirm whether or not you are able to present in those languages.
- Verify when you will be speaking during Mass-typically, it will be after Communion.
- Discuss where the in-pew pledge envelopes will be located the day of your presentation.

DURING YOUR VISIT

- Please be prompt and courteous to your hosts, as they have made special accommodations for you.
- Be sure to double check where the in-pew pledge envelopes are so that you can mention them during your presentation.
- If you're able, stay for a few minutes after each Mass to speak to parishioners and give them the opportunity for one-on-one conversations. You may also ask about visiting PREP classes, staying for a luncheon if the parish is having a celebration, etc. Make the best use of your time at the parish.

THANK YOU FOR PARTICIPATING IN THIS VERY IMPORTANT ELEMENT OF
THE 2023-2024 ST. CHARLES BORROMEO SEMINARY APPEAL!

ITEMS TO CONSIDER

PREPARING YOUR TALK

Talk about your life and experience at the seminary-what you like best about St. Charles and what has been most fruitful for your discernment and your formation as a priest.

- Discuss the 2 or 3 things you like most about St. Charles.
- Talk about what you believe is unique and good about St. Charles.
- Explain how your education and formation at St. Charles is helping you to grow as a disciple of Christ.
- Share with parishioners how your experience at St. Charles has helped to motivate you to be the best seminarian you can be – and one day, God willing, the best priest.

FOR SEMINARIANS: AFTER YOU PREPARE YOUR TALK

- Any seminarian who will be giving a Seminary Appeal talk in a parish *for the first time*, will be asked to provide the text of his talk to his Formation Advisor for review and comment prior to going to the parish; **this should be no later than one week prior to the weekend that you are giving the talk.**
- All other seminarians who are speaking in parishes are encouraged to review their draft talk with either their Formation Advisor, Spiritual Director or any other priest on the Joint Formation Committee.

IMPORTANT FACTS

The Seminary Appeal provides the major, essential source of subsidy to the seminary's operating budget in the current year. Please note that gifts made to this Appeal do not provide funding for the construction of the new seminary.

- The seminary is NOT closing. The seminary has purchased land adjacent to the campus of Gwynedd Mercy University in Lower Gwynedd, PA. The two institutions will remain separate and distinct from each other. Each will continue to maintain its own governance structure, academic freedom, and ability to offer programming consistent with their mission and core values. Plans call for the construction of a new chapel and student life center which will include a refectory, classrooms, library, administrative offices, and fitness center. Additionally, a dormitory to house college seminarians is being built on site. Finally, as a part of the purchase of the land from Gwynedd Mercy University, the seminary bought an existing dormitory which will be used to house theology seminarians and resident faculty. Construction is underway and the seminary is planning to open the new campus in August of 2024.
- The goal for the 2023-24 Seminary Appeal is \$3.5 million.
- The 2022-2023 Appeal raised over \$3.1 million.
- All of the funds raised go directly to the seminary for the exclusive purpose of funding the operating budget.
- The funds raised do not go to the Archdiocese and are not used for ANY other purpose.
- Founded in 1832, St. Charles Borromeo Seminary is the oldest Catholic institution of higher learning in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia.
- The undergraduate program prepares seminarians for advanced degrees in theological studies.
- The graduate program equips seminarians with skills necessary to support parish life.
- The seminary began this academic year with an enrollment of 147 seminarians which is significant increase over last year.
- The Archdiocese of Philadelphia and 14 partner dioceses and religious orders from across the country and around the world entrust their men to Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary for the preparation for the priesthood.

The seminary does more than just form men for the priesthood:

- The seminary has a School of Diaconal Formation for the Archdiocese of Philadelphia which forms all of the permanent deacons for the diocese. There are currently 43 men in formation for the Permanent Diaconate.
- The seminary also has a School of Theological Studies which is a major center of theological education in Philadelphia for laity, priests, and religious. The School of Theological Studies offers a Master of Arts degree program in-person and online and several other faith and spiritual formation programs. It has an enrollment of approximately 230 students.

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