



SPEAKER MANUAL



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.

**REMEMBER, YOUR PRIMARY OBJECTIVE IS TO MOVE
PEOPLE TO ACT – TO MAKE A GIFT.**

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 2024-2025 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 serves as the primary and critical source of support for the seminary's operating budget each year. It is important to note that previous gifts to this Appeal did not fund the construction of the new seminary.
- In August 2024, Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary welcomed 140 seminarians to its newly constructed campus in Lower Gwynedd. This state-of-the-art facility features chapels, a library, residence halls, and a student life center. The new campus, which replaces the historic Overbrook location after 153 years, offers more sustainable and efficient buildings while preserving key elements like stained-glass windows and pews from the old campus. Both seminarians and faculty are enthusiastic about the updated facilities, which foster a stronger sense of community and uphold the seminary's legacy of priestly formation.
- The goal for the 2024-25 Seminary Appeal is \$3.5 million.
- The 2023-2024 Seminary Appeal successfully raised over \$3.7 million.
- All funds raised through the Seminary Appeal are allocated exclusively to the seminary's operating budget.
- These funds are not transferred to the Archdiocese or used for any other purposes.
- Established in 1832, Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary is the oldest Catholic institution of higher learning in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia.
- The seminary's undergraduate program prepares seminarians for advanced degrees in theological studies.
- The graduate program equips seminarians with the skills needed to serve parish life effectively.
- Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary is entrusted with forming priests for the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, 14 partner dioceses, and religious orders from across the U.S. and abroad.
- The seminary does more than just form men for the priesthood:
- Beyond priestly formation, the seminary offers a School of Diaconal Formation, which prepares all permanent deacons for the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. Currently, 40 men are in formation for the Permanent Diaconate.
- The seminary's School of Theological Studies is a major theological education center for laity, priests, and religious in Philadelphia. Offering a Master of Arts degree in-person and online, as well as various other faith and spiritual formation programs, the school has an enrollment of approximately 200 students.

THE CATHOLIC FOUNDATION OF GREATER PHILADELPHIA

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FOR TODAY. FOR TOMORROW. FOR ALL OF US.

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