

Speakers' Guide

To Prepare

In your parish talk, you are a voice for thousands of dedicated and selfless women and men, each of whom has given decades of unstinting service without expectation of monetary reward—and each of whom would still prefer to give service rather than request aid. Despite their frailty, elderly religious will choose to speak for others rather than themselves. So we ask you to be their voice, to state their need, and to ease their aging. To assist you, we offer the following short guide to preparing your talk.

1. List the ways that religious women or men influenced you, your spiritual values, your career choices, your behavior, and your understanding of God in your world. Be as specific as possible.
2. On the web site, view the campaign fact sheet, “Why We Ask,” the Talking Points, and the Sample Talk.
3. Prepare and practice your own five-minute talk, incorporating examples from Step One.
4. A week or so before you are scheduled to speak, introduce yourself at your parish office.
5. Ask at the parish office if bulletin inserts, posters, and collection envelopes will be available. If the parish has not received a shipment, offer a gentle reminder that the bulletin insert and bulletin announcements are available at this website and can be downloaded for parish use.
6. View the Annual Report on the web site. The financial pages of the Annual Report list religious institutes in your region that receive grants, as well as the total donations made to the appeal last year from your diocese. The financial section also lists religious institutes that decline grants in order to provide for institutes with greater needs.
7. Ask your diocesan coordinator or pastor about the work that religious women and men undertake in your parish today.
8. Before the Mass at which you speak, introduce yourself to the celebrant.
9. Familiarize yourself with the podium and speaker system.

The Delivery

Trust yourself. You have the attention and good will of those to whom you speak. Talk to them with confidence. Boldly share the conviction you feel in your heart about our joint responsibility to respond justly to religious' need.

Encourage a generous response and suggest a donation that equals the amount a typical family in your parish might spend weekly on snacks, pet care, or at coffee shops.

www.usccb.org/nrro

Links to:

Talking Points for Sample Talk

Sample Talk

Intercessions

Pulpit Announcement