Together we accomplish so much more than any individual or parish can do alone.
It is Autumn of this “Year of Mercy,” when we hear anew cries for compassion, see new deeds of healing and feel gratitude among so many who have been touched by the loving care of those who have chosen to follow Christ.

As people of the Church we have learned and have come to believe that we must look “into the signs of the times by the light of faith,” constantly devoting ourselves day after day “to the service of the Gospel,” thus “remaining faithful to what we have learned and believed.” We serve the times in which we live when we do the sacred work of “Building Bridges” from judgement to mercy; from fear to courage; from doubt to faith, from despair to hope, from isolation to hospitality.

**WE ARE FAITHFUL:** Faithful to the spirit received when we were “plunged” into the font of Baptism and washed clean of the leprosy of death.

**WE ARE FAITHFUL:** Faithful to the mercy of Christ, when we, hold up the arms of the weary and announce to the world that God is “Our Father,” a Father who cares for all his daughters and sons scattered throughout this good and weary world.

**WE BUILD BRIDGES** when attentive to the needs of all, we share their grief, pain, joy and hope.

**WE BUILD BRIDGES** when we faithfully bring the good news of mercy, healing and a welcoming spirit to people of every language, race, religion and way of life as we go forward with them along the ways of God’s dwelling place.

**WE BUILD BRIDGES** when together we show compassion “for children and for the poor, for the sick and for sinners,” and when we ourselves become “a neighbor to the oppressed and the afflicted.”

**WE ARE FAITHFUL BRIDGE BUILDERS,** and so we gather in prayer seeking to grow in the service of goodness with a generous heart, a merciful vision, and a ready spirit.

**BUILDING BRIDGES IS REMAINING FAITHFUL.** Each of us prepares to offer our gift for the sacred work of **FAITHFUL BUILDING** as Jesus himself speaks:

“**STAND UP AND GO; YOUR FAITH HAS SAVED YOU!**”

Note: The above “introduction” could be read following the Prayer After Communion (during the “announcement time”) on the weekend of October 1/2 as a preparation for the Annual Catholic Appeal beginning October 8/9.

The presentation of the **Annual Catholic Appeal** is done in the context of the Liturgical Season, the Ordinary Sunday Liturgy, and the Scripture of the given Sunday.
Psalmody:
Psalm 98: The Lord has revealed to the nations his saving power (28th Sunday)
Psalm 121: Our help is from the Lord, who made heaven and earth (29th Sunday)
  Setting of the Sunday by Owen Alstott in Respond and Acclaim;
  Most GIA hymnals provide a Sunday psalter.
Additionally,
  **From OCP:**
  Setting of the Sunday by John Schiavone, A Lectionary Psalter, p. 176 and p. 179
  Lyric setting for Psalm 98 found in BB/MI #796 (alternate refrain) by Bob Hurd;
  also a setting in Glory and Praise, Third Edition, #179 by Timothy R. Smith
  **From GIA:**
  Setting of the Sunday by Michel Guimont in Lectionary Psalms, #144 and #147;
  setting of Psalm 98 and Psalm 121 by Joseph Gelineau in Lectionary Psalms, # 854 and #956.
  Various lyric settings of Psalm 121 also available in Worship, Gather, Gather Comprehensive and RitualSong.
  **From Liturgical Press,** Collegeville, MN:
  Setting of 29th Sunday in Psallite, Year C, #C-182. [Psalm 98 is set also but does not include the alternate refrain.

Hymns and Songs:
**OCP:** The references given below are for Breaking Bread 2016. Most of these pieces are included
  in all OCP resources (Today’s Missal, Heritage Missal, Journeysongs). Some also may be found in GIA hymnals:
  BB #595, All Good Gifts
  BB #311, As We Gather at Your Table
  BB #410, Christ Before Us
  BB #651, Enter the Journey
  BB #588, Give Thanks to the Lord
  BB #366, Lord, By Your Cross and Resurrection (text of second reading for 28th Sunday)
  BB #468, Shelter Me, O Lord
  BB #488, There’s a Wideness in God’s Mercy
  BB #310, Table of Plenty
  BB #593, Thanks Be to God
  BB #384, With One Voice

**GIA:** No specific page/number reference is given for GIA, since a variety of GIA resources are
  used in the Diocese of Helena. Most of the following pieces are included in all GIA resources
  (Worship, Gather, Gather Comprehensive, RitualSong.) Some also may be found in Breaking
  Bread/Music Issue.
  Christ has No Body Now but Yours
  God of Day and God of Darkness
  God Sends Us Forth
  Healer of Our Every Ill
  Healing River of the Spirit
  Lord of All Hopefulness
  Now Thank We All Our God
  Seek Ye First the Kingdom
  The Servant Song
  We Cannot Measure How You Heal
THE FIRST SUNDAY: The Twenty-eighth Sunday Ordinary time.
October 8/9
INTRODUCTION OF THE 2016 ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL

Introductory Rites.
Please refer to the Leader’s Guide, page 5

Prior to the gathering hymn and procession:

- Chairperson of the Parish Annual Appeal Committee (or the pastor, or other designated person) introduces the appeal using the suggestions provided on page 5 of the Leader’s Guide. (The suggestions provided on page 5 for “after the homily” may also be used as part of the Introduction.)

- Following the introduction the recorded message from Bishop Thomas is played as an “introduction to the Liturgy.”

A WORD OF CAUTION: The CD or tape should be used only if there is a very good sound system in the church, so that all will be able to hear the message clearly. If such a system does not exist, then the message should be read by someone specially designated and prepared.

- It is important that someone introduce the tape and indicate that this is the beginning of the 2016 Diocese of Helena Annual Catholic Appeal: BUILDING BRIDGES, REMAINING FAITHFUL.

- Note: the taped message is not used as the homily of the Mass.

CALL TO SILENCE

Following the message from Bishop Thomas there is a period of silence before the gathering hymn begins. After a time the procession enters in the usual manner.

NOTE: If a parish “witness speaker” is present that person’s presentation may be given at this time, OR following the Prayer After Communion. Their presentation does not replace the homily, occur as part of the homily or follow the homily (c.f. Leader’s Guide, page 11 & 12)
**Following the Greeting...**

**Priest:** “Plunged” into the waters of baptism
we remain faithful to promises made,
“that all people may be raised up by the hope of a world made new!”

Embracing the mission to be “Faithful Bridge Builders“
we trust in God the Father’s merciful love,
*and so let us acknowledge our sins*
*as we prepare to celebrate the sacred mysteries:*

**There is a moment of silent reflection.**

**Deacon/Priest:** LORD JESUS,
You bear our weakness and carry our sorrows:
Lord, have mercy

**ALL:** LORD, HAVE MERCY

**Deacon/Priest:** CHRIST JESUS,
You stir up in us a saving faith:
Christ, have mercy

**ALL:** CHRIST, HAVE MERCY

**Deacon/Priest:** LORD JESUS CHRIST,
You are the compassion of God,
inviting us to generous love and faithful service:
Lord, have mercy

**ALL:** LORD, HAVE MERCY

**Priest:** May almighty God have mercy on us,
forgive us our sins
and lead us to everlasting life.
AMEN.
Reflection for the preparation of the HOMILY, Twenty-eighth Sunday-C

It would seem that Elisha could have simply spoken the words over Naaman and healed him quickly—no wait, no procession to the river, no time taken or effort made, to immerse himself, not once but seven times.

But Elisha demanded the ritual...the procession, the energy, the time, the water, the sevenfold immersion, the conversion—the change of heart. Becoming clean is not done in an instant—it implies a journey, an effort, a ritual, a sacrifice, a change. Naaman had to do something, he had to act, he had to ritualize the inner reality. In the end he had to worship in a new way...he had to build a new altar out of “two mule loads of earth...” where the offering of thanks to the One true God could be made. A simple gift would not do—he had to be seen “plunging into the river,” his body and spirit becoming new. He had to be heard giving thanks, telling the story, praising God. He had to “build a new bridge” from what was to what was yet to be.

The lepers came to Jesus for healing—these were the rejected, the feared people in Jesus time. Could not Jesus have just healed them instead of asking them to “go public,” to let themselves be seen? Why make it inconvenient for them; why demand that they take time and make the effort to tell their story—after all they were not well. He sent them on a journey—a ritual journey—“show yourselves to the priest”. While ON THEIR WAY, they were healed. Again, something was asked of them, they needed to go from one place to another—they needed a willingness to be seen in order to be cleansed. They could not hide! The healed Samaritan came back to worship: "praising God, falling on his face and giving thanks!” A new bridge was built, a new way to be healed.

How do we share our journey, our healing, our vision? How do we share and hand on the faith? How do we celebrate our own being “plunged” into the Jordan River of Baptism?

When out of gratitude we are present “around the altar;” when we are willing to be seen; when we journey to the river again and again, like Naaman; when we tell the story to one another, to our youth and children; when we share the story with those who seek healing and life; WHEN WE ARE SEEN; when we remember the gifts God has given and return again and again to say and sing THANK YOU; when we are seen telling the stories of faith, not so much by what we say, but by how we live, love, care, worship and serve; when we tend to the faith of one another and offer God’s love to those around us, far and near; when we let our eyes be opened to the needs of all; when our words and deeds comfort those who labor; when we serve them truly, after the example of Christ and at his command; then we are a living witness who remain faithful to the promises made. In such doing and being, we are “building bridges” over walls, crossing barriers and opening doors!

It cannot be said of us, “where are they?” We have heard the words of Jesus, and filled with gratitude we have come back, ready to offer a gift acceptable to God for our own good and the good of the whole Church.

To us, today, Christ sends us: “Stand up and go;” BUILD BRIDGES, REMAIN FAITHFUL. “Your faith has saved you!”

Following the Homily...on the Twenty-eighth Sunday, October 8/9
Please refer to the LEADER’S GUIDE, page 5.
If the suggestions given on page 5 of the Leader’s Guide were not completed as part of the Introduction prior to the beginning of Mass, they could be done following the homily, though they would be more appropriate as part of the Announcements at the end of Mass (following the Prayer After Communion).
**GENERAL INTERCESSIONS**

Annual Catholic Appeal **INTRODUCTION SUNDAY**—Twenty-eighth Sunday, October 8/9, 2016

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Priest:  
*As “Faithful Bridge-builders” let us raise our voice in prayer for the needs of both world and church.*

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The following intercessions may be added to the regular parish prayers of intercession.

**FOR THE CHURCH**

For the parishes of the Diocese of Helena and our own parish of _____________________________;
May we, with the whole Church, “stand up and go” to be messengers of mercy, builders of hope and faithful servants.”
We pray to the Lord.

For all who are served through the ministry of the Annual Catholic Appeal, that attentive to the needs of all, we may faithfully bring them the good news of salvation and go forward with them to the dwelling place of God. We pray to the Lord.

*(This prayer could be repeated on all the Sundays of October, November and December)*

**FOR THE WORLD**

For those who seek healing, especially the outcast, the lonely and the forgotten:
For all who suffer from the violence of war, terror, displacement and hunger;
for those who are treated as “lepers” in our own age and time:
May the sacrifice we offer and the gifts we bring serve them truly and raise up in them the hope of a world made new.
We pray to the Lord.

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**CONCLUDING PRAYER**
CONCLUDING PRAYER TO THE GENERAL INTERCESSIONS

Priest:

GRACIOUS GOD,
You sent your Son to proclaim the Good News,
inspire us in faith and show us the way to be good stewards of Your mercy.

Give us the courage to magnify your presence in word and deed,
help us build bridges and remain faithful
to all that we have learned and believed.

And through your Spirit teach us to live, no longer for ourselves,
but in Christ Jesus who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit,
one God forever and ever.

AMEN.

Presentation of the Gifts...

The presentation of the gifts of bread, wine and the money offerings must always be done with a sense of deliberateness and care, since this is the sacrificial offering of the people, representing what they need for life. The gifts given by God are returned to God and God, from the gifts given, offers to us and the whole church the very body, blood, life and spirit of his Risen Christ.

“Receive our oblation, O Lord, by which is brought a glorious exchange, that, by offering what you have given, we may merit to receive your very self.”

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Introductory Rites.

Prior to the gathering hymn and procession, at the time Mass is scheduled to begin:

- A brief musical prelude or choral arrangement may be appropriate;
- Chairperson of the Parish Annual Appeal Committee (or the pastor, or other designated person) introduces commitment to the Annual Catholic Appeal using the text provided on page 7 & 8 of the Leader’s Guide. Also note the ACA Speaker’s Talk and Additional Talking Points on pages 11&12 of the Leader’s Guide.
- Care is taken to review the vision for the annual appeal as noted in the provided text;
- It is highly recommended that the cards and pencils be available prior to the beginning of Mass either in the pew pockets or in baskets at the end of each pew or row of chairs. If however the cards and pencils have not already been placed in the pews/chairs, the ushers or other designated persons distribute the cards to ALL in the assembly at this time (make certain there are more ushers than usual in order to expedite the distribution.)
- The people are reminded of the importance of the Appeal and the significance of their response. Remind them that all will be asked to respond following the Liturgy of the Word and the homily as a response to God’s word.

CALL TO SILENCE

Following the introduction and reminder all are called to a period of silence as preparations are made for the Introductory Rites of the Liturgy.

NOTE: If a parish “witness speaker” is present that person’s presentation may be given at this time, OR following the Prayer After Communion. Their presentation does not replace the homily, occur as part of the homily or follow the homily (c.f. Leader’s Guide, pages 11 & 12).
Following the Greeting...

**Priest:** Embracing the mission to be “Faithful Bridge-Builders”
we trust in God the Father’s merciful love.

Charged by Christ to pray without growing weary
and to serve with a persistent spirit,
we embrace the mission of “Building Bridges”
so “that all people may be raised up
by the hope of a world made new! “

Let us cry out for mercy:

*There is a moment of silent reflection.*

**Deacon/Priest:** LORD JESUS,
When we grow weary, you support our prayer:
Lord, have mercy

**ALL:** LORD, HAVE MERCY

**Deacon/Priest:** CHRIST JESUS,
You impel us to seek the Father’s enduring justice:
Christ, have mercy

**ALL:** CHRIST, HAVE MERCY

**Deacon/Priest:** LORD JESUS CHRIST,
You invite us to generous love
so that when you come faith will be found on earth:
Lord, have mercy

**ALL:** LORD, HAVE MERCY

**Priest:** May almighty God have mercy on us,
forgive us our sins
and lead us to everlasting life.
AMEN.
Reflection for the preparation of the HOMILY, Twenty-ninth Sunday-C

Last Sunday Jesus asked a poignant and challenging question after he healed the lepers and only one returned to give thanks: “Were not the others healed? Where are they?” And to the one who gave thanks, as we are doing here today around the Lord’s Table, he did not ask a question but gave a command: “Stand up and go…”

Despite their absence Jesus, we know, does not give up on those who are too busy to be present or too pre-occupied with their own concerns to remember to take the time to offer thanks or to open their eyes to the needs of people in order to share the grief and anguish, the joy and hope of fellow human beings.

Today we meet another persistent and unrelenting minister of the Church. Who is this persistent widow of whom Jesus speaks? She is the one who does not fit, one for whom the accepted ways of living or believing are not possible. She is the one who is different, who finds it difficult, perhaps even impossible, to find a home in the community or even in the Church. She is “the many” on the other side of the bridge waiting, hoping to be helped across, she is not seen, even by believing bridge builders—the “many” the “faithful” sometimes miss or do not see! She could be all those to whom we are sent to “build a bridge to!” She could also be any one of us here who feels forgotten, misunderstood, set aside, and longing to be seen. She could be those who were once “faithful,” but became lost along the way.

Could it be that it is to such ones that we are sent (“stand up and go…” to them)? When we are able to say “thank you” for what we have received, are we “bothered” by the persistent needs all around us? Is our hearing and our response the way Christ will find “faith on earth?”

The answer to the question, for us, is truly a resounding “yes!”

Yes, because we have been “plunged into the Jordan River at the font of baptism and are the “faithful” in this parish and in our diocesan church;

Yes, because our generous sacrifice does “help build bridges for both those “others” and ourselves to cross;

Yes, because we, like Aaron and Hur, remember “the many” whom we have held in our arms;

Yes, because what we have done and given fills us with thanksgiving and we have come back and uttered the words, “thank you.”

And so again Christ commands us, “stand up and go,” break through the walls, break open closed and locked doors, build a new bridge and cross it yourselves. Then, I will find faith on earth!

In a few moments we will place our gift in the basket—for many of us a true sacrifice— the gift that sends us to answer the prayer of the widow; the gift that will build many bridges for “the many” to cross over with us to the dwelling place of God; the gift that will help us to “Remain Faithful,” whether convenient or inconvenient.

"Where are they? WE ARE HERE! There is faith on earth; the bridge building begins!
Following the homily on the Twenty-ninth Sunday October 15/16

Commitment to the Annual Catholic Appeal 2016

Please note pages 7-8 of the LEADER’S GUIDE (Commitment Weekend Solicitation Guidelines)

- Following the Homily there is a period of silence.
- After a time the priest stands and leads the Nicene Creed.
- Following the creed he says the following:

  Priest:  In a moment we will pray for the world.  
  Now we take a time to act in prayerful generosity as we respond to the Word of God through our participation in the 2016 Annual Catholic Appeal.  
  Together we do the work of “BUILDING BRIDGES AND REMAINING FAITHFUL.”

Please be seated.

If someone other than the presiding priest, the person designated to lead the renewal then comes forward. This should be done from a place other than the ambo/pulpit.

The people are led through the renewal using the materials and instructions provided on pages 7-8 of the LEADER’S GUIDE.

The response card is clearly explained and adequate time is provided for the response.

THE PRESIDING PRIEST, DEACON/S AND MINISTERS OF THE LITURGY ALL FILL OUT THE CARD.

During this time INSTRUMENTAL music may be provided.

When all have responded:

Priest: Having been filled with the wisdom of God we prepare to offer our gift, “bearing witness to our shared Christian faith.”

We return to God what God has given us.

LET US RISE AND PRAY.

The General Intercessions then begin.

Following the intercessions the collection is taken as usual. During the collection appropriate music (instrumental or choral) should be provided.

When complete the BASKET of both the Parish Stewardship offerings and the Annual Catholic Appeal offerings/cards should be placed in a prominent place near the altar.
General Intercessions
Annual Catholic Appeal, Commitment Sunday—Twenty-ninth Sunday, October 15/16, 2016

Priest: As “Faithful Bridge-builders” let us raise our voice in prayer for the needs of both world and church.

The following intercessions may be added to the regular parish prayers of intercession.

For the Church

For the parishes of the Diocese of Helena and our own parish of __________________________:
May we, with the whole Church, hear the persistent call of those in need and build bridges to neighbors both near and far, that faith will be found upon the earth.
We pray to the Lord.
(this prayer could be repeated on the 30th and 31st Sunday, October 23 and 30)

For all who are served through the ministry and care of the Diocese of Helena Annual Catholic Appeal:
May the Lord guide their coming and going on the “pilgrimage of life.”
We pray to the Lord.

For all who bear the gift of faith and share the life of the Church: may our shared generosity teach us to “remain faithful” to what we have learned and believed.
We pray to the Lord.

For the World

For the persistent pursuit of truth and freedom, peace and justice by all who bear the name “Christian.”
Let our living witness “convince and encourage,” bearing fruit in the heart of all who are “pilgrims on the way.”
We pray to the Lord.

Concluding Prayer
Priest:

**GRACIOUS GOD,**
You sent your Son to proclaim the Good News,
inspire us in faith and show us the way to be good stewards of Your mercy.

Give us the courage to magnify your presence in word and deed,
help us build bridges and remain faithful
to all that we have learned and believed.

And through your Spirit teach us to live, no longer for ourselves,
but in Christ Jesus who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit,
one God forever and ever.  **AMEN.**

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**Presentation of the Gifts...**

The presentation of the gifts of bread, wine and the money offerings must always be done with a sense of deliberateness and care, since this is the sacrificial offering of the people, representing what they need for life. The gifts given by God are returned to God and God, from the gifts given, offers to us and the whole church the very body, blood, life and spirit of his Risen Christ.

*“Receive our oblation, O Lord, by which is brought a glorious exchange, that, by offering what you have given, we may merit to receive your very self.”*

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GENERAL INTERCESSIONS

Annual Catholic Appeal Intercessions throughout the year.
As the liturgical year progresses it is important
to continue our prayer for the Annual Catholic Appeal.

Priest:  

_The normal introduction for the Sunday or Season._

The following intercessions may be added to the regular parish prayers of intercession.

General:

1. For the parishes of the Diocese of Helena and our own parish of ________________;
   May we continue to respond to the Annual Catholic Appeal
   “extending our reach beyond home and parish by
   “Building Bridges and Remaining Faithful.”
   We pray to the Lord.

2. For those who seek healing, especially the outcast,
   the lonely and the forgotten:
   May the sacrifice we offer and the gifts we bring serve them truly
   after the example and command of Christ. We pray to the Lord.
   (This prayer could be repeated on all the Sundays of October, November and December)

November:

That our memory of those who have gone before us may fill us with hope
as we continue the work begun at our baptism.
May our gifts help “build a bridge of hope”
as we ourselves remain faithful to the mission of Christ.
We pray to the Lord.

Advent/Christmas

For all who wait in joyful hope,
may the light of eager expectation glow
as we continue the sacred work of “Building Bridges”
and “Remaining Faithful,”
through our gift to the Annual Catholic Appeal.
We pray to the Lord.
FOLLOWING THE PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

- If a parish “witness speaker” is present that person's presentation may be given following the Prayer After Communion (at the normal “announcement” time). This would be particularly appropriate on “Introduction Sunday,” (October 8/9).

- Other Annual Appeal Announcements are given following the Prayer After Communion
Notes....
Together we accomplish so much more than any individual or parish can do alone.

Beloved: remain faithful to what you have learned and believed - 2 Timothy 3:14