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**Personal testimonial sample and guide for Announcement Weekend**

Thank you for supporting your faith community by sharing your story! During Mass you will have about three (3) minutes for your testimonial. On Announcement Weekend we are focusing on *A Community United* [in faith]. Below you will find a few questions to help guide and form your talk.

**Questions and prompts**

* What was your faith journey like?
* What brought you to this parish?
* Was there something in particular that drew you to this community?
* How has the Catholic church played a meaningful role in your life/the life of your family?
* How have you played a meaningful role in the Church?
* Share a treasured memory of your parish.

After you have finished sharing you can end your talk by reading the stewardship prayer.

**Sample talk**

Hello, my name is John. I started attending this parish in 2014 when I moved to the area. I was looking for a church community that was active in the neighborhood and where I could meet new friends. My faith journey has been a mix of churches and faith backgrounds. As a kid I bounced around from church to church, but in high school I found a parish that had a large youth group that I really enjoyed. I skipped school a few times to go hang out at church! How many kids do that?  In my 20’s I got busy, started to move around a bit and found myself not attending Mass all that often. The years went by quickly and just before I started attending Mass here, I began to question my faith and beliefs, and I realized that I needed to get back to my faith. So, I began looking for a church and I found this community and attended Mass for the first time in a long while! I liked the teachings and the worship, but mostly I liked the community of people that truly cared for others. As I reflect over the years since I started attending Mass here, I have found that this community is big part of my life. It’s been my community of friends, my support when times were tough, and a place to celebrate the milestones of life. Some of my favorite moments are when we gather after Mass for coffee. I love that we swap stories, and learn from each other. I hope you feel as part of this community as I do and will join me in renewing your commitment to our parish next weekend.

**Prayer**

Please pray with me:

*Gracious God,*

*We humbly gather as a community united in faith, service, stewardship, and mission.*

*May our hearts overflow with generosity, as we share our blessings and talents to the betterment of others.*

*Help us embrace our role as faithful stewards, using our resources wisely and selflessly.*

*Guide us in our daily actions to embody love and compassion, strengthening the bonds that connect us all in Your grace.*

*Amen.*