**Bishop’s Appeal 2013 Stories**

**Deacons Seek to Serve**

Every day, deacons answer Jesus’ call to serve others. Working in parishes and communities, they minister to the needs of people and bring Christ into our day-to-day world.

Individuals called to serve in the diaconate commit themselves to a five-year education and formation program. This program supports and challenges them on their way to becoming ordained servants of God.

The Bishop’s Appeal assists deacon candidates and ordained deacons in their ministry journey. It provides support for their pre-ordination training program, as well as for their post-ordination continuing education. “Without the Bishop’s Appeal, it would be difficult to have a quality formation process or to provide the support services needed for the ordained diaconate community,” said Deacon Paul Grimm, Director of the Diaconate Department.

For more information on how to support the diaconate program by giving a gift to the Bishop’s Appeal, please contact your parish, visit the Bishop’s Appeal website at [www.CatholicFoundationgb.org/give](http://www.CatholicFoundationgb.org/give/), or call Debbie toll-free at 877-500-3580, ext. 8184.

**Bishop’s Appeal by the Numbers**

The Bishop’s Appeal reaches out and impacts the lives of thousands of people every year. Here are some interesting facts to illustrate how the Diocese is alive and growing and how the Bishop’s Appeal is making a difference in the lives of all of us:

 60 Catholic schools shared our faith

 157 Parishes celebrated their liturgies throughout the year

 1,126 Couples were joined in marriage

 3,050 Members of our Diocese passed away

 2,917 Adults and young people were confirmed in their faith

 3,535 Children and adults received Jesus through
First Communion

 3,491 Infants and adults joined our parish communities through Baptism

 10,401 Students participated in Catholic Schools

 19,051 Students took part Religious Education classes

 323,790 Catholics worshiped in Diocesan parishes

***The Compass* Fuels Faith**

Quick question: How many Catholics fuel their faith by reading the Diocese’s official weekly newspaper, *The Compass*? Answer: More than 20,000 fellow Catholics. They’re reading the publication because it helps guide them on their faith journey. Inspirational stories from *The Compass* bring Christ right into their hearts and minds.

“With help from the Bishop’s Appeal, *The Compass* provides readers with reliable news, information and inspiration,” says Sam Lucero, *Compass* editor. “Each week, stories and columns help reveal our Catholic faith*.* And they deliver more than just news. They challenge readers to explore and absorb Christian values in the world today.”

*The Compass* is made possible by the Bishop’s Appeal; please prayerfully consider a gift today. For more information, contact your parish, visit the Bishop’s Appeal website at [www.CatholicFoundationgb.org/give](http://www.gbdioc.org), or call Debbie toll-free at 877-500-3580, ext. 8184.

**Easter People**

 We have just lived the sacred Triduum and celebrated the Lord’s Resurrection. Over this last week, we were reminded about how Jesus calls us all to be His disciples. Through the good works of the Bishop’s Appeal, we are able to follow Jesus by sharing our faith*.*

Giving a gift to the Bishop’s Appeal during the six weeks of this Easter Season would be a wonderful way to continue to follow in the footsteps of our risen Christ. If you have not yet made your gift to the Bishop’s Appeal, please consider the joy you could bring to the lives of others now and throughout the year.

 For more information on how to give a gift to the Bishop’s Appeal contact your parish, visit the Bishop’s Appeal website at [www.CatholicFoundationgb.org/give](http://www.Catholicfoundationgb.org), or call Debbie toll free at 877-500-3580, ext. 8184.

**Bishop’s Appeal Helps Those Who Grieve**

The loss of a loved one is an experience that many of us can understand. For grieving families throughout our Diocese, Catholic Charities is a guiding light. Perhaps a person or family is dealing with the loss of a son or daughter, or maybe a mother or father. In many tragic situations, it is difficult to begin the grieving process without help. This is where you can make a difference.

By giving to the Bishop’s Appeal, you help Catholic Charities do the compassionate work of Jesus. Through your generosity and others, its counselors are able to reach out and help people to cope with loss when they do not know where else to turn. Please consider giving kindly to the Bishop’s Appeal 2013.

For more information on how to give to the Bishop’s Appeal contact your parish, visit the Bishop’s Appeal website at [www.CatholicFoundationgb.org/give](http://www.Catholicfoundationgb.org), or call Debbie toll-free at 877-500-3580 ext. 8184.

**On Fire for the Lord**

Many of us wonder where our faith journey may take us. For Julianne Donlon-Stanz her faith journey took her from a little mountain village in Ireland to northeastern Wisconsin. Her new role as Director of the New Evangelization Department for the Diocese allows her to share our Catholic faith with people through programs and seminars.

“This work is tremendously important to me because it’s impacted my own life on such a personal level,” Julianne says. “I’ve seen the effects when people are energized in their faith. They are really on fire for Christ and His teachings.”

Julianne’s work has impacted more than 7,000 people, and without the support of the Bishop’s Appeal, Julianne would be unable to bring Christ’s message to them. Julianne's classes are always provided to adults at no cost because of your generosity to the Bishop's Appeal.

To make a gift today contact you parish or visit the Bishop’s Appeal website at www.CatholicFoundationgb.org/give/, or call Debbie toll-free at 877-500-3580 ext. 8184.

**Welcoming New Catholics**

This Easter Season is a wonderful time to celebrate our faith and the Resurrection of our Lord. For those newly initiated into the Catholic Church, this spring also marks a milestone on their faith journey.

With help from parish-directed programs called the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA), candidates received the resources, support, and knowledge they needed to take the next step in their journey of faith. Clare Sturm, Director of Worship for the Diocese of Green Bay, helps parishes enhance their RCIA programs by providing them with new ways to create a warm and welcoming place to find God. With a gift to the Bishop’s Appeal, you can join Clare in helping parishes enhance their RCIA programs and welcome future, newly formed Catholics.

For more information on how to give to the Bishop’s Appeal contact your parish, visit the Bishop’s Appeal website at [www.CatholicFoundationgb.org/give](http://www.Catholicfoundationgb.org), or call Debbie toll-free at 877-500-3580, ext. 8184.

**Catholic Charities Changes Lives**

Seeing a smiling face during a time of need is a blessing from God. Jesus calls us to reach out to others in service and to provide hope and healing to all God’s people. This is a key part of our Church and the mission of Catholic Charities.

Catholic Charities provides more than 22 different programs and is committed to
bringing vital social services to persons of all faiths and ethnic backgrounds. Last year, thousands of individuals and families in all 16 counties of our Diocese participated in Catholic Charities programs.

Among these thousands are many with little or no health insurance and limited income. The Bishop’s Appeal provides funds to Catholic Charities so it can reach out to these people and provide them with a variety of services at minimal cost. Jill Kahovec, Supervisor of Support Services, says, “I see the impact the Bishop’s Appeal has on families who come to us for services. Without our help, they would have no place else to go. ”

If you would like to support the ministry and services of Catholic Charities, please consider giving a gift to the Bishop’s Appeal. For more information contact your parish, visit the Bishop’s Appeal website at [www.CatholicFoundationgb.org/give](http://www.Catholicfoundationgb.org), or call Debbie toll-free at 877-500-3580, ext. 8184.

**Sharing God’s Grace**

Did you know the Diocese of Green Bay supports a mission parish in a Caribbean country called the Dominican Republic? The parish is called Elias Piña, and its parishioners have abundant faith but little water, electricity, or money. Our Diocese helps the mission in Elias Piña. It provides necessary resources by attending to the parishioners’ physical and spiritual needs.

Although you may be unable physically to travel to the Dominican Republic to help these parishioners, your support of the Bishop’s Appeal shares God’s grace with them. Please respond to the call to share your gifts with others by giving a gift to the Bishop’s Appeal.

For more information on how to give a gift to the Bishop’s Appeal contact your parish, visit the Bishop’s Appeal website at [www.CatholicFoundationgb.org/give](http://www.Catholicfoundationgb.org), or call Debbie toll-free at 877-500-3580, ext. 8184.

**Growing Future Church Leaders**

Have you ever wondered how deacons, parish directors, directors of religious education, and religious education teachers learn about our Church and develop their ministry leadership? Many of these leaders have grown in their faith with help from Tony Pichler, Lay Ministry Formation Director.

Tony works with current and future Church leaders. “When people enter the program, they are like flowers beginning to bud. As time passes, they grow, open up, and keep growing as if they’re in a movie that has been sped up. Their change is remarkable,” says Pichler.

By participating in classes, workshops, and retreats and seminars, these leaders learn to use their love and skills to become the face of Christ to others. Their opportunity is made possible by the Bishop’s Appeal. “Without the Bishop’s Appeal, we would not be able to help as we do,” says Pichler.

Please prayerfully consider making a gift to the Bishop’s Appeal. For more information on how to give to the Bishop’s Appeal contact your parish, visit the Bishop’s Appeal website at [www.CatholicFoundationgb.org/give](http://www.CatholicFoundationgb.org), or call Debbie toll-free at
877-500-3580 ext. 8184.