

## **2016 Bishop's Appeal Video Script - FINAL**

Narrator: In our world. We desire something greater than ourselves. We seek out what is right and just and we rely on His help to fulfill a greater destiny. A destiny of serving those less fortunate and those looking for God's mercy and grace.

For Derrick Diedrich this work has happens at St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception Parish in Greenville Wisconsin.

Derrick: Church is important to me because before Church I looked for life outside in different activities and I didn't find it, but in Church where I have the Eucharist I find life, I find love and I find peace.

Fr. Peter: So Derrick Diedrich comes from a wonderful family. And in every way Derrick by his prayerfulness, by his service, by teaching some of the young students here in our faith formation program he makes himself available. He's often here at daily Mass...

Narrator: Derrick has found God's love and mercy through his involvement in youth ministry.

Maria: Youth ministry is Christ-centered, is loving and is merciful.

Narrator: For Derrick, youth ministry has led him to God's mercy in today's turbulent world.

Derrick: Mercy is God loving us so much that He never wants to be separated from us so he'll take anything away that separates us from Him.

Narrator: For many young people this mercy and love of Jesus is found through youth ministry conferences like Youth Jam, March for Life and Stuebenville.

Derrick: Without these youth trips I don't know where I'd be, I'd be lost and these youth trips are the things that gave me life and from this life that they gave me I found the Church and now the Church is the one sustaining me.

Narrator: Derrick's youth ministry experiences have drawn him closer to the Church. He credits his parish, Maria and the Bishop's Appeal for helping young people discover and love Christ in much deeper way.

Maria: Oh, the best part of my job is seeing young people fall in love with Christ. To be able to be that person that says "I've seen it happen, I've seen conversions happen because of the Church, because of the work that we're doing here because Christ is central to everything that we do."

Narrator: Through the Bishop's Appeal we become *Faces of God's Mercy* to young people.

Narrator: God calls each of us to participate in the corporal and spiritual works of mercy. We are asked to teach the faithful ... pray for the living and the dead... and visit the sick and homebound.

Fr. Dave: I see God's mercy touching people's lives through care ministry by simply reminding them that they are loved.

Mary A.: Care ministry is at the heart of who we are as Christians. I often say in our trainings, ah, care ministry is a person sharing the person of God with another person.

Narrator: We are blessed in our Diocese to have more than 1,400 care ministers. And for Kathy Leist of Manitowoc this ministry has been a privilege.

Kathy: There are so many blessings in this ministry. I know the care receivers will say that they enjoy our visits, they enjoy our prayers. They are so grateful for us bringing Communion.

Narrator: For nearly 14 years, Kathy has served Elaine as a care minister.

Kathy: I think Elaine appreciates my visits but I see them more as me representing the Church that brings the love of God that brings Communion to her.

Narrator: Kathy is a blessing for Elaine. She was trained through the diocesan Care Ministry program. This compassionate work happens because of your support of the Bishop's Appeal.

Narrator: Through the Appeal we become *Faces of God's Mercy* to people in need of His love.

Narrator: This love is expressed through the ministries of the Diocese. Whether it's a child just beginning a prayer-filled relationship with Jesus or a deacon following the calling of the Lord – the diocese is there supporting them along the way. It is through the Appeal that ministries that promote pro-life and living justice issues are embraced and shared widely. Caring for the least among us happens through the Living Justice department and the work of Catholic Charities. The teen parenting program is one ministry that makes a difference.

Agustina: I was 17 when I had Bella.

Narrator: Agustina's life changed forever when Bella was born. She chose life and to parent her daughter as a single mom. She found guidance from Jeanna Zuelke – a case manager at Catholic Charities Teen Parenting program.

Jeanna: The Teen Parent Program is primarily a case management program, so what that means is that I sit down with the teen parent and work with them and their families one on one um towards any goals that they want to accomplish.

Narrator: Agustina's goals were to get her driver's license, graduate from high school and find an apartment. With Jeanna's help she has accomplished those goals and is now working on her bachelor's degree while parenting three-year old Bella.

Agustina: Jeanna's been a miracle. I love Jeanna...

Narrator: For Agustina – Jeanna has been the face of God's love and mercy. Through Catholic Charities we help thousands of people every year in need counseling and care. Whether it is Agustina, Derrick or Kathy and Elaine – your support of the Bishop's Appeal makes these ministries of mercy happen.

Bp. Ricken: Hello my friends. You have just witnessed several ways Catholics are the face of God's mercy to others. Many times God's mercy is found in prayer. God's mercy is always there for us. All we need to do is ask.

It is through the corporal and spiritual works of mercy that the Church reaches out to people by counseling the doubtful, teaching the faithful, visiting the sick and comforting the sorrowful. Much of this work happens today through ministries like the New Evangelization, the department of Education, and Catholic Charities. All of these ministries that help so many people are supported by your gifts to the Bishop's Appeal.

God has blessed us greatly. We are challenged daily to be grateful by giving back and helping those seeking His abundant mercy. One way to give back is by making a gift to the Bishop's Appeal. Please prayerfully consider making your gift today.

Together, we are the face of God's Mercy to people suffering and in need of His love. Thank you for all of your prayers and support. May God bless you.