Bishop’s Appeal 2014

Video Script for Parishes

Bishop: Hello I’m Bishop David Ricken. This year, I want to share with you how Catholics are deepening their faith, caring for those who are struggling and Sharing the Light of Christ with people of all ages.

Narrator: As the school bell rings, thousands of children leave the playground and begin their journey of faith. At Most Precious Blood Catholic School these kids are receiving a great education and experiencing the light of Christ in their daily lives.

John Reetz Catholic schools without a doubt provide us the best opportunity to evangelize, catechesis and educate our Catholic youth. And within the ministry of our Catholic schools those opportunities ensure the future of the Church, making sure that our students, as they grow into adults, become responsible citizens, active citizens, and active faith members in their parish communities.

Narrator: At the school, John has helped their new principal Anne Koehnke stabilize their enrollment.

Anne John Reetz has been wonderful. He’s really helped us come up with ideas for building the enrollment. One of which we’ve implemented this year is extended day for our three and four year old program where the kids have the opportunity to stay at school. That’s helped to build the enrollment.

Narrator: For Anne – John Reetz has helped tremendously and through the Bishop’s Appeal you are helping our schools as well. Your gift to the Bishop’s Appeal touches the lives of many people across our Diocese, including those served by Catholic Charities.

Ted: Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Green Bay has been around for 95 years. 95 years of reaching out, of helping others, helping our friends, neighbors, family members and helping folks that you might not even know. We’ve been here in the areas of mental health, adoption, issues of bankruptcy, poverty and just working with people in areas of their life that they have found themselves in deep darkness.

Narrator: Catholic Charities supports families in many ways – one area is helping create families through adoption.

Nate: Well my name is Nate, this is my wife Alena. We adopted our daughter whose name is Leyla, and we have a son Jaden who is five years old.

Alena: The day that we got the phone call that the birth mother had chosen us was a day I’ll never forget, because I knew that at that moment we would be a family of four. That’s what we’d been praying for so long. It was something that we had so much gratitude for the birth mother, and the choices she had made. We are just so humbled by being chosen and being able to have this incredible opportunity to become Leyla’s forever family.

Narrator: Words cannot express the joy and gratitude Nate and Alena have for Leyla’s birth parents. Catholic Charities was there for each of them and many other people in need.

Ted: One of the things that is different here at Catholic Charities than many of the other agencies around is the fact that we don’t turn anybody away. Nobody gets turned away because they can’t pay. We have a sliding fee scale for the things we do, that keeps people engaged in their care and engaged in the process. But we don’t turn them away. If you don’t have insurance our doors open, that’s not everywhere. If you need help we’re here.

Narrator: Every day Catholic Charities is making a difference and helping people in communities throughout Northeastern Wisconsin. Lives are also changing in the north woods. At Camp Tekakwitha in Shawano, kids are being drawn into a life of faith while experiencing all the fun of a summer camp.

Elizabeth: I’ve been coming to Camp Tekakwitha for five years now. What I’ve learned here at camp is there’s always someone to have your back and God is always there for you.

Aiden: RM? Camp Tekakwitha is really fun…sometimes there’s campfires and skits, there’s chapel time, gaga ball, and archery.

Liam: Camp Tekakwitha is a great place to learn about your faith and to meet new people and have fun during the summer.

Eric: The three words that we use most commonly to describe Camp Tekakwitha are faith, friends and fun. From a faith perspective we try to integrate faith in everything from canoeing and kayaking, to archery and games. We open the day with praise and worship in the chapel, we begin and end every meal with prayer and song. We have something in the afternoon called leaf of faith.

Narrator: Beyond the faith experience kids are learning about themselves at Camp Tekakwitha.

Mary: I think kids learn to get back to the basics and to realize that there are certain things in life that you need like exercise and good old fashioned fun, because today we have kids who have twitter and instagram. And so I think camp offers kids the opportunity to get away and detach themselves from that. Camp also offers simplicity of lifestyle. It allows the kids to just rough it, to sleep in sleeping bags and to just get those bug bites and to just be out in nature. So it offers kids the opportunity to get away from their comfort zone and get put in a place where they can just have a lot of fun.

Narrator: Helping kids become more confident and feel the light of Christ is what makes camp special.

Fr. Luke: We need to invest in our young people. They are our future and they’re a wonderful investment. A little money to help someone come to a camp like this is a great investment in their future, and in the future of our Church. We want to sow the best seed we can, and that’s what something like this allows us to do…to give us an opportunity to be with young people from anywhere in the diocese. The Bishop’s Appeal helps us to plant that seed with them here at a place like Camp Tek.

Bp Ricken: Planting the seeds of faith is happening at places like Camp Tekakwitha, our Catholic schools, and parish religious education programs. More than 40,000 young people are being called to be holy, fully engaged and fully alive in our faith. Many Catholics are really eager to learn more about their faith -- through ministries like the new evangelization, the diaconate program and other opportunities like the Emmaus program. As our Holy Father, Pope Francis said on World Youth Day – “Let us become bearers of Hope.” Please join me in Sharing the Light of Christ and in being a bearer of Hope. Your gift to the Bishop’s Appeal helps bring hope to young people and comfort those who are suffering. With your help, we can make difference. If you’ve never given a gift before, please consider it today. Every gift, large or small, is an answered prayer to someone in need. Thank you for your gift to the Bishop’s Appeal and may God bless you.