

Bishop's Appeal 2013 Video Script

- Stephanie: My faith's important to me because it kind of centers who I am as a person.
- Joey: I do know that Jesus was crucified on the cross and after the third day he rose again.
- Matthew: My faith is important to me because it's something that can help me get through all the tough times that I face during the day.
- Adrina: The best part about religious education is learning more and more things about Jesus and God.
- Kari: My faith's important to me because it guides me in my entire life. It's the most important thing in my life. Without my faith, I wouldn't have anything.
- Narrator: For Kari Kruser—and for the young people she ministers to—faith is alive...alive and growing. That's because Kari is the Religious Education Coordinator at St. Peter the Fisherman Parish in Two Rivers. She is a faith sharer—and a model of faith to the children of the parish.
- Kari: I think what surprised me most is that they really—they don't realize how much that they need God, and they're very, very thirsty for...for His knowledge, and I am just really excited about teaching them more.
- Narrator: Kari says teaching teenagers is often true joy. It can also be challenging. When it is, the Diocese is there—just a phone call away. She also has opportunities to network with catechists from other parishes—and receive training.
- Kari: I think some of the training I have received has just really helped me...um...lift my spirits in my ministries. This is a hard ministry. It's hard work. I think every time I go to one of those leadership days or conferences that I just get lifted up in what I do, and it's so good for relationship-building with the Diocese, and that really, really helps.
- Narrator: One Diocesan relationship Kari appreciates is with Sr. Jackie Spaniola, Diocesan Religious Education Director.
- Kari: Sister Jackie has just been such a blessing because she's so knowledgeable, and I've learned so much from her.
- Fr. Tom: I have seen Sr. Jackie help Kari, especially in training the catechists. The Bishop's Appeal really does make this all possible. There's a lot of support that happens from the background that allows our coordinators to do their job well. It allows the foundation for the different programs that we use. It allows us to know

how important it is that...that we stay in...in the direction of where the bishop wants us to go, as well as in where we need to be as a parish here in Two Rivers.

Narrator: At St. Peter the Fisherman, the Bishop's Appeal nurtures parishioners' faith through their Religious Education ministry. The Appeal also supports parish ministries at every parish.

For example, it supports Marriage Preparation Ministry for engaged couples. (Joe Zenk) It provides for parishes' Adult Faith Formation Programs (Julianne). It also supports Ministry Formation Programs for deacons, parish directors, and lay ministers (Deacon Ordination). The Appeal also helps families in need of support.

Narrator: Every six seconds in the United States—a woman is physically abused by a loved one. Last year 1.3 million women were abused. For Amanda, she knows first-hand the fear and pain of domestic abuse. She and her three children lived that nightmare for many years.

Amanda: He was very controlling and abusive, and just put me through...uh...I lived in torture pretty much....

Narrator: Amanda was just about at rock-bottom when she met Bobbie Lison, of Catholic Charities Financial Health program.

Bobbie: Catholic Charities is a multi-service agency...um...and we have four main services: Child Welfare; Mental Health; Family Strengthening; and Financial Health. And that's the program I work in.

Narrator: Bobbie has several tools she uses with clients like Amanda. These tools helped Amanda manage her money and get her out of debt. Catholic Charities did not pay her bills but rather provided Amanda with a plan to be self-sufficient.

Amanda: Without the services of Catholic Charities...um...which Bobbie works at I...um... I would be in debt. And that's coming from the heart.

Bobbie: Amanda is an amazing woman. Amanda was referred by the Salvation Army's transitional living program. In working with her and explaining how things could be different, she really caught on to the program. She cleared about \$20,000 worth of debt.

Narrator: Through her hard work and training from Catholic Charities, Amanda is debt-free and has hope.

Amanda: But now...ah...\$20,000 in debt to having no debt. It's amazing. It feels great.

Bobbie: Her life has changed immensely. Um...she came in, and she really didn't have a plan for her finances. She didn't really have a plan for her financial future. And as we worked together, she began to develop goals, both short-term and long-

term, and she's always continued to meet those. Um...she's overcome some incredible...um...situations in her life, even while she's been in this program. And she has now really embracing a whole different way of looking at her family's finances.

Narrator: For Amanda and her children, their lives have been changed because of the work of Catholic Charities and your support of the Bishop's Appeal.

Amanda: Thank you so very much. I mean, it's people like you who keep this program going, and without it, who knows where I would be.

Narrator: The Bishop's Appeal is an investment in the people Jesus' continually calls us to serve—people like Kari—like Amanda—and thousands more like them.

Bp. Ricken: Hello, my sisters and brothers. You have just witnessed many ways your gift to the Bishop's Appeal makes a difference. You help thousands of children and adults become...Alive in Faith...through Catholic schools, parish Religious Education, and Adult Faith Formation Programs. And you change lives and save lives through the services of Catholic Charities. Your support strengthens our parishes, our diocese, and the faith lives of thousands of people.

To support this growth, the Holy Father has declared this year The Year of Faith...a time of prayer, reflection, and action about who we are as Catholics—and about how we can be more alive in our faith.

One way is through the Bishop's Appeal. You saw the uplifting story of Kari Kruser and Amanda's inspirational story. The Appeal also trains additional men and women who have been called to serve the Church. Many of them are pastoral associates, directors of religious education, parish business managers, and deacons.

Your support makes a difference. During this important and blessed Year of Faith, please prayerfully consider making a generous gift to the Bishop's Appeal. If in the past you haven't had a chance to make a gift, consider making your first gift this year. Together we can share Jesus' love with our brothers and sisters and help them become, Alive in Faith.

Thank you for your amazing, heartfelt support of our Church. May God bless you abundantly and reward you for your generosity. Amen.