**Bishop’s Appeal 2015 Stories/Bulletin Articles**

*The following stories are intended to be used in Parish Bulletins as each parish sees fit during the Bishop’s Appeal. You may use one of them or all of them. They are broken down into categories (General Stories about the Bishop’s Appeal, Catholic Charities, Education, Ministry, New Evangelization, and Other).*

***Stories about the Bishop’s Appeal…***

**What is the Bishop's Appeal?**

The Bishop's Appeal is a stewardship opportunity for each of us to reach out to thousands of people in search of Jesus' love. Each gift given supports the ministries of the Diocese of Green Bay which serve our parishes, Catholic schools and communities. Your gift truly helps bring the heart and hands of Christ to our children, young adults, families and neighbors here in northeastern Wisconsin.

To make a gift today 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.

**Why Give to the Bishop’s Appeal?**

*And the king will say to them in reply, “Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me.” Matthew 25:40*

Your gift to the Bishop’s Appeal will help in countless ways. Care ministers are trained to go out and share the Gospel with the homebound and sick. Children and families are able to attend lively, interactive education programs learning the Word of God. A young woman in an abusive relationship is able, through counseling with Catholic Charities, to stand on her own feet. Families seeking to adopt are connected with newborn babies. Your gift to the Bishop’s Appeal makes happy endings possible.

91% of every dollar raised goes to Diocesan ministries and services right here in northeastern Wisconsin.

Make a tremendous difference, and give to the Bishop’s Appeal. How much you give is less important than the spirit in which you give, and even small donations add up to large donations. To make a gift today 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.

**Does the Bishop's Appeal pay the Bishop's salary
or any legal settlements?**

The Bishop's Appeal is an annual campaign that supports the ministries of the Diocese. It does not pay the Bishop's salary and has never been used to pay any legal settlements. The Appeal does provide support to diocesan ministries reaching out to thousands of people each year. These ministries include Catholic Charities, the diocesan Education Department, the Compass, and the Lay Ministry Formation program, to name a few.

It is our continuing pledge to you to use all the funds received during the 2015 Bishop's Appeal to provide these services and meet the needs described on our web site at [www.catholicfoundationgb.org](http://www.catholicfoundationgb.org). Thank you for your generous support of the Appeal.

**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 building disciples, 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

 906 Couples were joined in marriage

 2,975 Members of our Diocese passed away

 2,664 Adults and young people were confirmed in their faith

 3,088 Children and adults received Jesus through
First Communion

 3,188 Infants and adults joined our parish communities through Baptism

 9,623 Students participated in Catholic Schools

 18,102 Students took part Religious Education classes

 326,466 Catholics worshiped in Diocesan parishes

**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.

To make 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/give), or call Debbie toll free at 877-500-3580, ext. 8184.

***Stories about Catholic Charities….***

**Building Disciples of Christ: Catholic Charities**

*“Being a disciple means being constantly ready to bring the love of Jesus to others*…” The Joy of the Gospel, Pope Francis.

Jesus calls us to build people up, heal the broken, and bring love to everyone. Catholic Charities works with individuals, families and communities to help them meet their needs and resolve their problems.

Catholic Charities is committed to bring social services to people of all faiths and ethnicities. Thousands of individuals and families are helped each year in five offices throughout our 16-county diocese. Many have little or no health insurance. They offer programs in:

* Individual and Family Counseling
* Adoption, Pregnancy and Parenting Support
* Family Strengthening
* Financial Health

The counselors of Catholic Charities are disciples of Christ. Your gift to the Bishops’ Appeal allows Catholic Charities to bring the love of Christ to those who need it the most. Make your gift today at [www.catholicfoundationgb.org/give](http://www.catholicfoundationgb.org/give), or call Debbie toll-free at
877-500-3580, ext. 8184.

**The Burden of Debt**

Life can be challenging. There are times when people feel so lost it can be hard to see the light of day.

Amanda was in an abusive relationship that took a toll on her physically, emotionally, and financially. This relationship left her battered, bruised, and in severe debt. Through God’s grace, Amanda found help from several organizations, including Catholic Charities Financial Health Program. With guidance from Bobbie Lison, Financial Health Counselor, Amanda learned to manage her money, prepared a plan to pull herself out of debt, paid her debts on-time and became self-sufficient.

“Going from $20,000 in debt to no debt…it’s amazing. It feels great,” says Amanda.

Your gift to the Bishop’s Appeal helps people like Amanda. To make a gift today 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.

**Can This Marriage Be Saved?**

A wedding is an exciting event! The anticipation and emotion of the Mass and reception is wonderful, but the really hard work comes after you walk up the aisle as two lives joined together as one.

When couples face problems in their marriage, Catholic Charities offers help. Here, couples can work on issues caused by poor communication, financial stress, family issues, infidelity, resentment, and other challenges in their relationship.

Following an initial assessment, a certified therapist will work with couples to develop goals for their relationship, and tools to practice newly learned skills. Counseling ends when a couple decides their goals have been reached.

Your gift to the Bishop’s Appeal allows Catholic Charities to promote healthy marriages. They have five counseling offices in northeastern Wisconsin, bringing their services close to people in need. To make a gift today 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.

**Counseling Individuals in Need**

Seeing a smiling face during a time of need is a blessing from God. Catholic Charities is that smiling face and a lamp to guide people during a challenging time.

With five offices in northeastern Wisconsin, Catholic Charities offers counseling services for children, adolescents, adults, couples, and families facing challenges in their lives. Individuals from different backgrounds and situations reach out daily to Catholic Charities for help.

Catholic Charities Counseling Services is there through life’s up’s and down’s…the loss of a loved one, depression, anxiety, addictions, life changes, family issues, and more. These services are provided to everyone who seeks them, regardless of religious affiliation, culture or ability to pay.

Your gift to the Bishop’s Appeal allows Catholic Charities to give hope to people in need. To make a gift today 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 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, 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 to the Bishop’s Appeal.

To make 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/give), or call Debbie toll-free at 877-500-3580 ext. 8184.

***Stories about Catholic and Religious Education…***

**Impacting the Lives of Children**

Did you know that within our diocese, 10,000 children participate in Catholic Schools and nearly 20,000 in Religious Education classes? Or that more than 500 attended Camp Tekakwitha last summer?

The future of our Church relies on us *Building Disciples of Christ* today. Through the many education programs of our diocese, we are able to teach children to know and love Jesus.

“Please know that your gift to the Bishop’s Appeal allows our students in Catholic schools to become disciples of Christ, and ultimately to become good citizens in our communities,” says John Reetz, Superintendent of Schools for the Diocese of Green Bay.

Your gift to the Bishop’s Appeal makes a difference in the Catholic education of children across our 16-county diocese. To make a gift today 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.

**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. Phil Lawson, who leads the RCIA program 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 Phil in helping parishes enhance their RCIA programs and welcome future, newly formed Catholics.

To make 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/give), or call Debbie toll-free at 877-500-3580, ext. 8184.

***Stories about Ministry…***

**Care Ministers Reach Out To Those In Need**

Did you know there are more than 1600 Care Ministers serving our parishes in the Diocese of Green Bay? A Care Minister is a volunteer who is trained to go out and listen, understand, support and pray with people in need of support during times of transition in their lives. These volunteers respond to the spiritual and emotional needs of the bereaved, hospitalized, terminally ill, separated, divorced, unemployed, or those facing some personal crisis.

Becoming a Care Minister is not a simple undertaking…it requires training, leadership, and continuing education. Your support of the Bishop’s Appeal enables members in your parish to be trained as Care Ministers, and allows those hurting in your parish to receive pastoral care.

Your gift to the Bishop’s Appeal allows you to reach out and care for the hurting people across our 16-county diocese. To make a gift today 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.

**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. The Bishop’s Appeal assists deacons in their pre-ordination training program, as well as for their post-ordination continuing education.

“The entire Diaconate formation process takes at least 5 years, including a 4-year academic program of courses in scripture, theology, liturgy, pastoral care, canon law, homiletics, etc. Funds we receive from the Bishop’s Appeal help these men become ministerial leaders for Christ-centered service,” said Deacon Tony Abts, Director of the Diaconate Department.

To make 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/give), 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. To make 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/give), or call Debbie toll-free at 877-500-3580 ext. 8184.

***Stories about New Evangelization…***

**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 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 to the Bishop’s Appeal 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.

***Other Stories….***

***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. 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.

**Sharing Faith From Around the World**

With little water, minimal electricity and no money, the people of our Elias Piña mission in the Dominican Republic have abundant faith. In this land of poverty, many people do not have the resources to find a job or the ability to attend Mass. The mission in Elias Piña helps provide necessary resources by attending to the physical and spiritual needs of these communities.

Although you may not be able to physically travel to the Dominican Republic to help these communities, your support of the Bishop's Appeal can share our faith with them from across the globe. Think about sharing the abundance of your gifts with others by giving a gift to the Bishop's Appeal.

If you have not made a gift to the Bishop's Appeal, please prayerfully consider the impact it would have on our parishes and communities and make a gift today at [www.catholicfoundationgb.org/give](http://www.catholicfoundationgb.org/give).

For more information, contact your parish, visit the Bishop's Appeal website at [www.catholicfoundationgb.org](http://www.catholicfoundationgb.org), or call Debbie toll-free at 877-500-3580, ext. 8184.