**Bishop’s Appeal 2018 Video Script**

Bishop: Jesus said, “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. My friends, Jesus was not only inviting Peter, James, John and the rest of the disciples to share His good news with the world – He was and is now calling each one of us to embrace a life of discipleship.

 For 150 years priests, sisters and the faithful throughout the Diocese of Green Bay have embraced this life of following Jesus as His disciples. These men and woman have prayed fervently, taught the faith to children and built communities that stand in fidelity as a testament to their love of Jesus Christ. Our work continues this year as we celebrate our 150th anniversary of the founding as the Diocese.

In parishes and Catholic schools people of all ages are discovering what it means to be a disciple. As part our faith formation ministries young people experience the love of God in sacred scripture, stories of saints and learning how to pray and enter into a friendship with God. Our Catholic schools are centers of discipleship. Here students find opportunities to share their faith, engage in daily prayer and receive an exceptional education. Your gift to the Bishop’s Appeal helps our Catholic teachers by providing them with the tools to encourage young people to embrace a life of discipleship*.*

At Camp Tekawitha children are being inspired to recognize God’s presence all around them. Camp is a wonderful place for children to connect with Jesus Christ while exploring His playground in the north woods.

As our children grow older, their faith journey continues through youth ministry and college campus ministry programs. This continuation of their friendship with Jesus is a building block in forming them to be missionary disciples for life.

Learning about Jesus and understanding the teachings of the Church is important. In the Emmaus Lay Ministry Formation program men and woman take the next step in their faith journey. After their formation they are ready to inspire other disciples to grow deeper in their faith. We are also forming our Hispanic brothers and sisters in a similar way through the Discípulos de Cristo ministry.

Your gift to the Bishop’s Appeal does this and so much more. You help with the education and formation of our deacons. Last year five deacons were ordained thanks to your support. Another diocesan ministry you support -- is Marriage Preparation. These seminars help couples make Christ the center of their marriage and family. Through prison ministry we are able to be the face of Jesus Christ to those seeking God’s love and mercy. Caring for those who are struggling most is the work of Catholic Charities. Their professional staff helps families and individuals through Adoption Services, Budget Counseling and Mental Health Counseling to name just a few of their ministries. Sharing God’s love also happens through care ministry. Our Diocese is blessed with more than 1,400 care ministers who pray with and bring Holy Communion to people who are homebound or sick. This compassionate work is possible because of your generous support of the Bishop’s Appeal.

Bishop: As disciples we read in 1 Corinthians to “do everything for the glory of God” and to “be imitators of Christ.” When you make a gift to the Bishop’s Appeal you are not only giving glory to God for all the ways He has blessed you – you are also making an investment in the Body of Christ, the Church, as we bring the Gospel to thousands of people every weekend.

 Please prayerfully consider making your gift to the Bishop’s Appeal today. With your gift many people are beginning to embrace a life of discipleship. Thank you so much and may God bless you abundantly in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.