**Bishop’s Appeal 2018 Pastor’s Bulletin Messages**

Bishop’s Appeal Kick-off Weekend, Feb 3-4, 2018

**Embracing a Life of Discipleship - Bishop’s Appeal 2018**

*He told them, “Let us go on to the nearby villages that I may preach there also. For this purpose have I come.” Mark 1:38*

Dear Friends,

In today’s Gospel, we hear about Jesus reaching out, healing the sick and those possessed by demons. Then He pushes on to continue preaching, it seems His efforts never cease. Jesus came to us with a purpose from the beginning. In a very short time, He came to preach, build up disciples to carry forth His mission and to prove He was truly the Son of God.

Today there are many disciples that carry on this mission. For example, consider deacons. Our deacons not only assist at Mass, but they proclaim the Gospel bringing Christ to people in prisons, hospitals, shelters, youth programs, and the homebound. The Bishop’s Appeal helps fund the training and formation of deacons.

Please make your gift to the Bishop’s Appeal today and help deacons become servants of Christ. The abundance of Christ’s love they share is immeasurable! Contact our parish office, use the pledge card you received at home, or visit the Bishop’s Appeal website at [www.catholicfoundationgb.org/give](http://www.catholicfoundationgb.org/give) to make your gift. Thank you for your gift to the Bishop’s Appeal, and for your support of <<Parish Name.>>

*This is one of four messages you may use to print in your weekly bulletins during the first four weeks of the Bishop’s Appeal. Each message is tailored to the weekly scripture reading. All four messages may be found on the CD of the 2018 Bishop’s Appeal materials.*

Bishop’s Appeal 2nd Weekend, Feb 10-11, 2018

**Embracing a Life of Discipleship - Bishop’s Appeal 2018**

*The leprosy left him immediately, and he was made clean. Mark 1:42*

Dear Friends,

*“…and he was made clean.”* A fresh start, a clean slate. Don’t we all sometimes need a new beginning? Jesus performed miraculous healings we hear throughout the Gospels. He gave people a new beginning and demonstrated his power as the Son of God. Many who witnessed or experienced these healings became true believers *Embracing a Life of Discipleship*. Jesus was building disciplesthrough these healings.

Catholic Charities continues this mission of Jesus today. They help people create new beginnings. Through the counseling services they provide in mental health, debt management, addiction, adoption and parenting support, and marriage and family conflict, Catholic Charities helps people create a clean start.

To help those in need, please make your gift to the Bishop’s Appeal today. Contact our parish office, use the pledge card you received at home, or visit the Bishop’s Appeal website at [www.catholicfoundationgb.org/give](http://www.catholicfoundationgb.org/give) to make your gift. Thank you for your gift to the Bishop’s Appeal and for your support of <<Parish Name.>>

Bishop’s Appeal, 3rd Weekend, Feb 17-18, 2018

**Embracing a Life of Discipleship - Bishop’s Appeal 2018**

*Jesus came to Galilee proclaiming the Gospel of God: “This is the time of fulfillment. The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the Gospel.” Mark 1:14-15*

Dear Friends,

*“Jesus came to Galilee proclaiming the Gospel of God.”* Everywhere Jesus went, He was proclaiming the Gospel and demonstrating He was truly the Son of God. He found His disciples in the most ordinary of men, folks like you and me, whom God used in an extraordinary way. Even today, God finds each of us capable of being disciples.

The diocesan New Evangelization staff is made of ordinary people whom God is using in extraordinary ways! Each and every day, they are out proclaiming the Gospel and *Embracing a Life of Discipleship.* Through their youth, campus, and young adult ministries, adult faith formation and RCIA programs – they reach out to people of all ages. Their programs and events are truly amazing, providing relevant messages that reach people right here at <<Parish Name>>.

Please make your gift to the Bishop’s Appeal today and help our brothers and sisters to *Embrace a Life of Discipleship*. Your gift allows the New Evangelization department to bring wonderful programs proclaiming the Gospel of God right here to our parish. Contact our parish office, use the pledge card you received at home, or visit the Bishop’s Appeal website at [www.catholicfoundationgb.org/give](http://www.catholicfoundationgb.org/give) to make your gift. Thank you for your gift to the Bishop’s Appeal and for your support of <<Parish Name.>>

Bishop’s Appeal 4th Weekend, Feb. 24–25, 2018

**Building Disciples of Christ - Bishop’s Appeal 2018**

*“He was transfigured before them, and his clothes became dazzling white…” Mark 9:2-3*

Dear Friends,

This weekend we hear the Gospel reading about the Transfiguration of Jesus. Jesus leads Peter, James, and John up a mountain where they witness the amazing Transfiguration of Jesus, their teacher. Time and again, Jesus teaches and inspires His disciples, and proves through many miraculous events that He is the Son of God – which God literally tells them at the transfiguration.

Teachers have the ability to inspire and motivate children. Educators in our schools and religious education programs light a fire in the hearts of our children so they might know and love Jesus. When they share the Gospel with children they are teaching them to *Embrace a Life of Discipleship*.

Thanks in part to the Bishop’s Appeal, we have meaningful programs to teach, resources to train educators and quality curriculum. Through these programs we engage youth on their faith journey, so they too can become disciples of Christ!

Please make your gift today. Contact our parish office, use the pledge card you received at home, or visit the Bishop’s Appeal website at [www.catholicfoundationgb.org/give](http://www.catholicfoundationgb.org/give) to make your gift. Thank you for your gift to the Bishop’s Appeal and for your support of <<Parish Name.>>