**2019 Bishop’s Appeal Pastor’s Bulletin Messages**

Bishop’s Appeal Kick-off Weekend, February 2-3, 2019

**Missionaries of Hope – 2019 Bishop’s Appeal**

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

In today’s Gospel, we hear how the crowds rejected the message of Jesus. Just like Jesus, all of us have experienced rejection at one point in our lives. These experiences can easily lead us to feelings of despair or a belief things will not get better. Yet as missionary disciples, we are called to be people of hope.

The message of hope is desperately needed in our world today. There are so many people struggling and suffering. They are looking for a reason to believe things will get better. Through your support of the 2019 Bishop’s Appeal and the many ministries of our Diocese, you help bring hope to many people. You show others that even in the midst of challenges God is there waiting to bring healing.

Your gift to the Appeal helps children in our Catholic schools and faith formation programs learn to know and love Jesus. You fund training and formation for deacons who share the Good News with people in prisons, hospitals, homeless shelters and people who are homebound. You serve as a Missionary of Hope standing in witness to the love of Jesus.

Please prayerfully consider making your gift to the 2019 Bishop’s Appeal. Visit the parish office or Bishop’s Appeal website at www.catholicfoundationgb.org/give to make your gift today! Thank you for your support of the Bishop’s Appeal and <<Parish Name.>>

**Week 2 – February 9-10, 2019**

*Jesus said to Simon, “Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching men.” Luke 5:10*

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

In today’s Gospel, Simon Peter and his fellow fishermen have a frustrating night of fishing. Simon questions Jesus after He suggests they lower their nets and give it another shot. Why on earth would they catch anything now? Jesus put these fishermen to the test. He created a situation so the disciples would learn to trust Him; and Simon is deeply sorry for doubting Jesus who, of course, forgives him. God’s mercy is there for all who ask forgiveness and all who have faith in Him. Furthermore, Jesus is telling the fishermen they have the ability to transform the world!

Here in our Parish, we have fantastic youth ministers and faith formation educators who are catching young souls to be disciples of Christ. Youth Ministry does the very thing Jesus did with the fishermen - they bring young people into experiences where they see the face of Jesus in others, where they encounter God’s mercy in an intimate way and are forever changed because of these events. Here at <<Parish Name>> we have young people who have attended <<Mission trips, March for Life, Youth Jam, Green Bay Youth Conference>>. Students who attend Youth Ministry programs sponsored by the Bishop’s Appeal tend to become very connected with their Catholic faith and they truly become the future of our Church.

Please make your gift to the Bishop’s Appeal today and help reach out to build young disciples of Christ! Contact our parish office, use the pledge card you received at home or visit the Bishop’s Appeal website at www.catholicfoundationgb.org/give to make a 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 2016 Bishop’s Appeal materials.

**Week 3 – February 16-17, 2019**

*And raising his eyes toward his disciples he said: “Blessed are you who are poor, for the kingdom of God is yours.” Luke 6:20*

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

In today’s Gospel, Luke addresses the financial and social conditions of the human race; the rich -- the poor; the hungry – the satisfied; those grieving – those laughing; the outcast – those socially acceptable. Some people become so consumed by their troubles that they are unable to recognize God’s tremendous love for them. As *Missionaries of Hope*, we are called to help those struggling most in life.

Through your support of the Bishop’s Appeal, Catholic Charities’ counselors are able to help people resolve their problems. Whether helping a grieving widow, a young teen with a drug addiction or a family in extreme debt, counselors are there bringing hope.

As a <<Pastor or Pastoral Leader>> I often witness challenging life situations. Sometimes I need more help, so I refer people who are struggling with life’s issues to the dedicated counselors at Catholic Charities. Through the Bishop’s Appeal you help support the social service programs of Catholic Charities in five offices across our Diocese.

Join me in helping lift up those struggling most in life. Please prayerfully consider making a gift to the Bishop’s Appeal. Visit the Bishop’s Appeal website at [www.catholicfoundationgb.org/give](http://www.catholicfoundationgb.org/give) to make your gift today! Thank you for your support of the Bishop’s Appeal and <<Parish Name.>>

**Week 4 – February 23-24, 2019**

*“Give and gifts will be given to you; a good measure, packed together, shaken down, and overflowing, will be poured into your lap. For the measure with which you measure will in return be measured out to you.” Luke 6:31*

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

This week in the Gospel of Luke, we hear why giving is so important. Think about the last time you gave a gift – the warm, fuzzy feeling you had knowing you made someone’s day. This is the same feeling God has for you! He gifted you with life and He loves you. As a *Missionary of Hope*, God wants you to share your gifts and His love with others.

Jesus was constantly teaching His disciples, revealing Himself so they could carry forth His mission. Today, teachers and catechists play a critical role in inspiring our children to follow Jesus just like the disciples. Here at <<Parish Name>> we are blessed to have <<XX>> educators who generously share their gift of time. These educators help our children build a friendship with Jesus through prayer and the sacraments. I am so grateful for their gift of service to our Church.

When you give to the Bishop’s Appeal, you support Catholic school and faith formation educators with training to help our children know and love Jesus. Visit the Bishop’s Appeal website at [www.catholicfoundationgb.org/give](http://www.catholicfoundationgb.org/give) to make your gift today! Thank you for your support of the Bishop’s Appeal and <<Parish Name.>>