**Bishop’s Appeal 2021 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 and Parish Ministry).*

**General 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 Tammy toll-free at 877-500-3580, ext. 8123.

**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. 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 Tammy toll-free at 877-500-3580, ext. 8123.

 **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 provides support to diocesan ministries reaching out to thousands of people each year. These ministries include Catholic Charities, Catholic Schools, *The Compass* and the televised Masses, to name a few.

It is our continuing pledge to you to use all the funds received during the 2020 Bishop's Appeal to provide these services and meet the needs described on our web site at [www.catholicfoundationgb.org](http://www.catholicfoundationgb.org)/appeal. Thank you for your generous support of the Appeal.

**The Compass Fuels Faith**

More than 45,000 fellow Catholics fuel their faith by reading the Diocese’s official weekly newspaper, *The Compass*. 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, News & Information Manager. “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, or call Tammy toll-free at 877-500-3580, ext. 8123.

**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 Tammy toll free at 877-500-3580, ext. 8123.

**Sharing Faith from Around the World**

With little water, minimal electricity and no money, the people of our Eliás 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 Eliás 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.

For more information, contact your parish, visit the Bishop's Appeal website at www.catholicfoundationgb.org, or call Tammy toll-free at 877-500-3580, ext. 8123.

**Catholic Charities Stories**

**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 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 Tammy toll-free at
877-500-3580, ext. 8123.

**The Burden of Debt**

Life can be challenging. There are times when people feel so lost. They find help through Catholic Charities and the many programs and resources in our diocese.

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 Tammy toll-free at 877-500-3580, ext. 8123.

**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 Tammy toll-free at 877-500-3580, ext. 8123.

**Expanding Catholic Charities’ Reach**

During this past year, many people across our diocese have struggled with the stress and anxiety of isolation, fear, loneliness and financial insecurity. Through it all, Catholic Charities, which is funded through the Bishop’s Appeal, has been there to accompany people and help them find hope.

Catholic Charities continues outreach to our brothers and sisters regardless of their religious identity or affiliation. Newly launching this year is an updated service model making it possible to reach even more people in our northernmost communities. Truly, they’re a light in the darkness.

Your gift to the Bishop’s Appeal supports this important work. You help bring that hope to those who are most 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 Tammy toll-free at 877-500-3580, ext. 8123.

**Counseling Individuals in Need**

God calls us to support others in their time of need. Catholic Charities is a smiling face and a light guiding people during their most challenging times.

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 include helping people through the loss of a loved one, depression, anxiety, addictions, life changes, and family issues. These counselors answer God’s call by providing these services 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 Tammy toll-free at 877-500-3580, ext. 8123.

**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 Tammy toll-free at 877-500-3580 ext. 8123.

**Education Stories**

**Impacting the Lives of Children**

The future of our Church needs young people to be alive in their faith today. Through the many education programs of our Diocese, we are able to teach children to know and love Jesus.

Your gift to the Bishop’s Appeal allows students involved in Catholic schools, religious education and youth ministry to draw closer to Christ and to each other on a regular basis. Young people founded in Catholic education are the future of our Church and good citizens in our communities.

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 Tammy toll-free at
877-500-3580, ext. 8123.

**Planting Seeds of Faith at Camp Tekakwitha**

Lives are changing in the north woods. At Camp Tekakwitha in Shawano, kids are drawn into a life of faith while experiencing all the fun of a summer camp. Faith is the common thread woven into fun camp activities like archery, kayaking and canoeing, games, water fun and more. Each day opens in the chapel with praise, worship and music. Meals begin and end with prayer and song.

Camp Tekakwitha is a place that leads young people to a transformational moment. Experiencing creation in this environment can be the most meaningful factor for young campers in understanding who they are as children and as people of the Church.

Your gift to the Bishop’s Appeal makes a huge difference for Camp Tekakwitha. 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 Tammy toll-free at 877-500-3580, ext. 8123.

**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. The RCIA program begins at the diocesan level, and parishes receive assistance in helping people come into full communion with the Catholic Church. With a gift to the Bishop’s Appeal, you help 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 Tammy toll-free at 877-500-3580, ext. 8123.

**Strengthening Faith through Adult Faith Formation Programs**

Recent history bears witness that if adults are not well-formed in the Faith, the younger generations will lack formation as well. But with solid and vibrant adult faith formation programs, a personal relationship with Christ is better fostered among parishioners, the Sacraments begin to take on more relevance to everyday life and the motivation to share the Good News with those outside the flock is awakened. From there, the good work of catechizing children by the local parish is more likely to be reinforced by well-formed parents. In short, the benefits are incalculable!

Joe Tremblay, Adult Faith Formation Coordinator, assists parish leaders in bringing souls to Christ. Thanks to the Bishop’s Appeal he is able to provide resources, guest speakers and curricula to help parishes advance the mission in forming adults through Christ.

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, or call Tammy toll-free at 877-500-3580 ext. 8123.

**Parish Ministry Stories**

**Youth Ministry**

Young adults in today’s world find life difficult and overwhelming. Derrick Diedrich attended his first youth conference and discovered that Jesus was there to help him stay on the right path.

“Everybody was praising and loving Jesus and I just fell in love with the electricity. It’s like the Holy Spirit was running everything and it was just beautiful,” said Derrick.

Derrick chose to follow Jesus and share his faith with other young adults. He credits his transformation to those at the Diocese of Green Bay who support parish youth ministry and religious education programs.

Through these ministries, our youth encounter Christ and see the beauty of a church that is full of mercy and love. When you support the Bishop’s Appeal, you support young people like Derrick. You also train parish leaders like deacons, pastoral associates and religious educators.

To make a gift to the Bishop’s Appeal contact your parish, visit the Bishop’s Appeal website at www.catholicfoundationgb.org/give, or call Tammy toll-free at 877-500-3580 ext. 8123.

**On Fire for the Lord**

Many of us wonder where our faith journey may take us. For Julianne Stanz her faith journey took her from a little mountain village in Ireland to northeastern Wisconsin. Her role as Director of Parish Life and Evangelization for the Diocese allows her to share our Catholic faith with adults of all ages through programs like Girlfriends in God, Catholic Campus Ministries, and Encounter for Young Adults.

“This work is tremendously important to me because it has 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 ten thousand people, and without the support of the Bishop’s Appeal, Julianne would be unable to bring Christ’s message to them.

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 Tammy toll-free at 877-500-3580 ext. 8123.

**Reconnect to Inspire**

One of the gifts of the pandemic has been a reminder that the people are the Church. Wherever two or three are gathered in my name, Jesus said, there I am in their midst. Thanks to the generosity of people who support the Bishop’s Appeal, we’ve found innovative and effective ways to connect with each other beyond church walls.

Reconnect to Inspire is a program that has given people the opportunity to reconnect and encourage each other in whatever way works best for them, whether that’s outdoors, through video conference, or any other means that fits their group. It’s a great example of how Catholic people become church to and for one another.

Through your support of the Bishop’s Appeal you have made such a difference in parishes across northeastern Wisconsin.

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 Tammy toll-free at 877-500-3580 ext. 8123.

**Broadcast Mass**

When the pandemic began in March of last year, a group of people from the Diocese and WFRV joined together to bring a weekly televised Mass to the people of northeastern Wisconsin. As churches were closed, the Good News was still proclaimed each week by Bishop Ricken.

Phone calls and letters poured in from grateful family members. They were grateful that their elderly loved ones were able to feel the light of Christ through the darkness. Justine Lodl, Director of Communications for the Diocese shared, “There were many challenges that came with the pandemic, but also many blessings. This televised Mass was one of those blessings because people who are not physically able to get to Mass can feel the love of Jesus every week.”

Through your support of the Bishop’s Appeal you help reach our brothers and sisters who are feeling isolated – those who are homebound, residents in assisted living facilities and inmates in our prisons. Your gift brings the love of Jesus to those so often forgotten.

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 Tammy toll-free at 877-500-3580 ext. 8123.