

2022 BISHOP'S APPEAL VIDEO SCRIPT

BISHOP RICKEN

My friends, life is a journey. Every day is a gift. Every day can become an act of thanksgiving, even in the midst of trial and struggle. God is with us. Jesus walks with us, and the Holy Spirit lights our way.

It is always so inspiring for me to witness the Holy Spirit at work. This work takes place in the hearts of people of faith who bring the hope of Jesus Christ to all whom they encounter. It is with *Hearts Filled with Hope* that we listen to a friend in need, or rake the leaves of a neighbor, or help a young person discover Jesus. Through the Bishop's Appeal, we help parishes like St. Thomas More Parish in Appleton share God's love.

DEACON LINCOLN WOOD

The closer we grow in our relationship with Jesus, the more our hearts are filled with hope because He is our hope. He is the bottom line and everything we do revolves around that and that can't go away.

NARRATOR

For Deacon Lincoln Wood, sharing the love of Jesus is something he and his team does with people of all ages. This starts with families.

EMILY SHACKLETON

Family ministry is important because it's the foundation of the church. When we break down the family, everything else breaks down. But when we build that up, everything else is stronger. We know that we're not just a Sunday church. You know, things happen in this building, but they happen outside this building too. And that connection piece is the parents, it's the families. It's us living out our call as disciples of Christ.

ANDY CHMURA

We are taking that team approach because we know that we need to catechize the family as a whole. So it's not just the youth. It's not just the children. It's not just the parents. It's everybody. Everybody needs to have that encounter with Christ.

I think our young people today are struggling to find any meaning in life. They're struggling with a lot of mental health stuff that's going on. What they need is some type of true genuine love. No strings attached, just true unconditional love. They can find that in the Church. They don't know that they can find it in the Church quite yet. That's a discovery process, but they will find that here, and that's when their lives are going to be changed. Like a lot of people in my generation, it has been for that exact reason.

NARRATOR

It is through the ministries of the Church that we are able to help people discover Jesus and become a missionary disciple who shares Jesus with everyone they encounter. Much of this work is made possible because of the Bishop's Appeal.

ANDY CHMURA

When you're investing in the Bishop's Appeal, you're investing in every single parish in the Diocese, not just the one that you go to, but the Diocese as a whole, to make everybody stronger.

DEACON LINCOLN WOOD

We're all on the same mission. And Bishop's Appeal has really made that clear that we're united no matter where you are. If you're in Bear Creek or if you're in Appleton, it doesn't matter. The Diocese is one and we share a common mission and we share a common vision and the Bishop's Appeal gives us the resources to do that.

NARRATOR

This common mission continues in and through the work of Sr. Martha Escobar in her role as Hispanic Ministry Director for the Diocese of Green Bay.

SR. MARTHA ESCOBAR

Right now, the Hispanic community has been growing in the Diocese of Green Bay. We have about 52,000 Hispanics throughout the Diocese. And we have identified that we are not serving half of that population. So, we need to continue to grow in our services to the Hispanic community.

FR. JOSE LOPEZ

To me, Sister Martha is someone who loves God and is eager to share that love with others.

SR. MARTHA ESCOBAR

If you contribute to the Bishop Appeal, you will help us to continue our ministry with the Hispanic community.

FR. JOSE LOPEZ

We're part of the same team. The Bishop's Appeal, their support, the Diocese, our parish, we're part of the same family. Our only hope and desire is to lead souls to Christ. So the support that we get from the Diocese is in support of our mission of leading souls to Christ.

BISHOP RICKEN

We have just witnessed *Hearts Filled with Hope* – eager to share the joy of the Gospel. Through the ministries of the Diocese, we're able to bring Jesus to people of all ages. When you give to the Bishop's Appeal, you help children in our faith formation programs and Catholic schools build a friendship with Jesus. Your support helps those searching for a lifeline of hope from Catholic Charities. Their professional staff supports families and individuals through programs like Financial Health Services, Adoption Services, and Mental Health Counseling, to name just a few of their caring ministries. Thousands upon thousands of lives are changed every year through your support of the Bishop's Appeal. You make these wonderful ministries possible.

Please, prayerfully consider making a generous gift to this year's Bishop's Appeal. If in the past you haven't had a chance to make a gift, consider making your first gift this year. It's with *Hearts Filled with Hope* that together we bring the love of Jesus to people across northeast Wisconsin. On behalf of all those who are served – thank you, thank you. May God bless you and your family abundantly. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.