

# Bishop's Appeal Witness Talk Parish Training





*“Always be ready to give an explanation to anyone who asks you for a reason for your hope.”*

*1 Peter 3:15*

**The first step in identifying an excellent witness talk is understanding the ministries that are funded by the Bishop's Appeal.**

**Knowing the impact of the gifts to the Appeal will help you ask the right people and help them tell their story.**



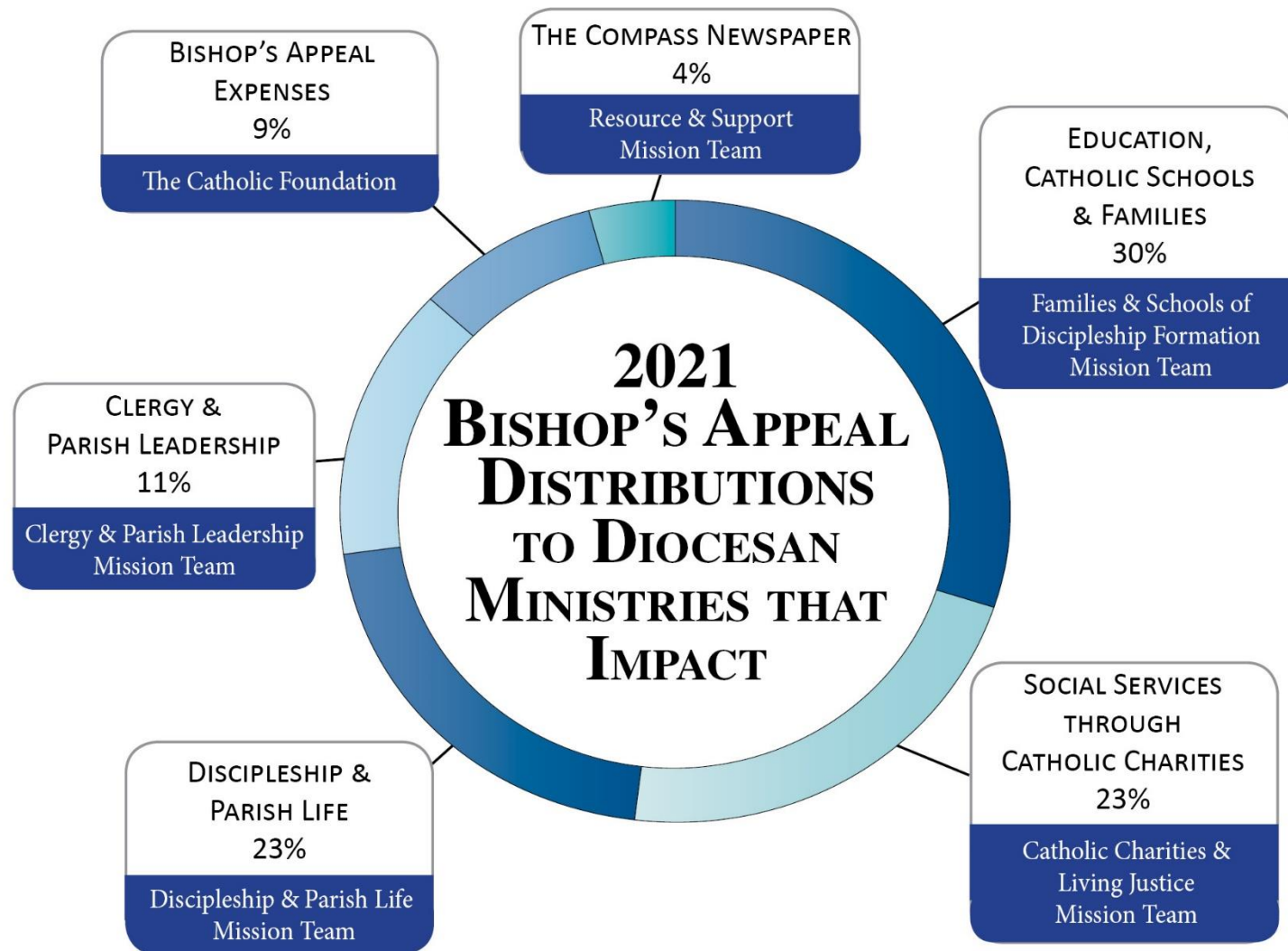
# Find Your Witness!

**You know your parish families better than anyone else. Use that beautiful knowledge to help amplify the stories of folks your parishioners know and love!**

- Deacons
- Parish Leaders who receive diocesan training:
  - Faith formation leaders
  - Parish Council members
  - Pastoral Associates
  - Care Ministers
- Catholic School principals
- An individual/family touched by adoption through Catholic Charities
- Someone who has benefitted from Catholic Charities counseling services
- Someone impacted by a diocesan speaker at a parish event
- A person or family member of a homebound parishioner who has been helped through Care Ministry
- Families who have had a child go to Camp Tekakwitha



# What percent of the Bishop's Appeal goes to each area?



# **Tell your story!**

**Developing an outline for the presentation can be an easy way to be less intimidated when getting up to speak in front of the church and can help organize your thoughts. Great Bishop's Appeal witness talks have these main components:**

1. Introduction
2. Story
3. Impact
4. Ask

# Introduction

1. Greet the congregation
2. Share your name
3. Share how long you've been at the parish (or how you've come give your talk today)
4. Thank the pastor/pastoral leader and group for the opportunity to share

My example:

Good morning! I'm Teresa Adler and I've been a parishioner here at St. Matthew since we moved back to Green Bay in 2017. There are so many things that I love about our parish, but chief among them are the wonderful people we've come to know and love in our St. Matthew family.

Fr. Bob, thank you very much for the opportunity to share a little bit about my story and the Bishop's Appeal with everyone today.

# Impact

1. Share your story about how the Bishop's Appeal has changed your life – that sounds like a lot, but hear me out!
2. Focus on your own experience with a ministry that is funded by the Bishop's Appeal
3. After sharing your story, let the church know that you are just one of thousands of people who benefit from the Appeal
4. Share how you feel when you make a gift



# Impact: The Story & Connection to Ministry

My example:

I have a 9 year old son that is in third grade at Father Allouez Catholic School. I asked I could share this story with you today and he said that if it helps someone understand how they can make a difference, then it was OK. So folks, with his permission, I'd like to share a little bit about how Eamon's experience at Camp Tekakwitha, a ministry funded by the Bishop's Appeal, has helped him.

Eamon is a smart, kind, hilarious kid who also happens to struggle with anxiety. When I dropped him off at Camp last summer in 2021, he hadn't been away from my husband and I since he was a camper in 2019. We were all a little concerned about what a week away might hold in terms of mental health challenges for him.

Eamon's counselor was the incredible Zona (his camp name) – one of our very own Seminarians for the Diocese of Green Bay. The second evening of camp after dinner, Eamon was having some anxious thoughts. He asked Zona for help and the two of them found a bit of space to talk and Zona shared that everyone feels lonely sometimes, but Jesus is always with us.

The counselors at camp took the time to get to know my boy, understand his struggles and helped him identify his unique strengths that he could bring to his cabin and the whole camp family. The introduced him to the Go-Pro and helped him capture some of the AWESOME Lily Games fun later in the week.

Eamon came home from Camp Tekakwitha with a newfound sense of confidence and a deeper faith with the assurance that he is never alone.

# **Impact: We are one of many**

My example:

Because of my work, I have the privilege of hearing the stories of kiddos just like Eamon who have grown in their faith through their experiences at Camp Tekakwitha. Thank you for all that you do to make this possible for our family and so many others.

Beyond Camp, gifts to the Bishop's Appeal help form our Deacons, train our Catholic school staff and faith formation leaders. This past year, the Bishop's Appeal was also the largest source of funding for Catholic Charities. Catholic Charities provides incredibly important counseling services to our brothers and sisters in their times of need.

# Impact: How it feels to give

My example:

I support the Bishop's Appeal because I know that my gift does incredible good right here in our own community – in my own home! To know that we can come together, share a bit of what we have and make a big difference is a wonderful feeling that I am proud to pass on to my son.



# The Ask

**This is an incredibly important piece of the witness talk and sometimes it can be the most scary. Fear not, my friends! It's so much easier to ask when you know how much good the gifts can do – and you've already shared that part so this is easy-peasy!**

My example:

When you make a gift to the Bishop's Appeal, you make an enormous difference. In my life, in my son's life, and in the lives of countless others. So my friends, I'm asking for your help. If you have already made your gift, thank you! If you haven't yet, please consider making your gift today. We've got envelopes in the gathering space, a giving link in the bulletin to make a gift online, or you can give the Catholic Foundation a call at 920-272-8008.

# The Thank You

**You're nearly done! Ending with a big thank you is truly the best way to convey your gratitude to the people in your own community who made this story possible.**

My example:

Thank you for your time this morning and allowing me to share a bit of our family's story and the Bishop's Appeal. Because of you, my son is growing in his confidence, his faith and his friendship with Jesus. Your gift allowed him the life-changing opportunity to go to Camp Tekakwitha. On behalf of our family and all the families served by the Bishop's Appeal, thank you and God bless you!

