

2026 Bishop's Appeal Video Script (English)

Bishop OS: When the world was nothing but darkness, God said, “Let there be light.”

Bishop VO: God calls us to *Be the Light* for others. Together we walk with friends and family on our faith journey. Through our diocesan ministries we are able to share the light of Christ with even more people across northeastern Wisconsin. This is made possible thanks to your gifts to the Bishop’s Appeal.

Narr: Your support helps the Office of Marriage and Family Life inspire young people like Karen and Kyle Connery-Cendejas as they build a strong marriage centered around Jesus.

Karen: When we got engaged, we knew that we wanted to get married in the church, because we felt in our heart that that's what God was calling us to.

Kyle: Thanks to the marriage preparation from the diocese and the FOCCUS couple in particular, they helped us grow in communication, finances, prayer, and just all the overall aspects of our faith. Through them, they helped us grow closer and be more inspired by God.

Narrator: The Bishop’s Appeal makes this ministry possible so couples can build a strong faith-filled marriage.

Carla: I have the joy to witness how couples are growing in their relationship. Your gift helps us to make this possible, so they can keep Jesus at the foundation for their marriage.

Narrator: Every couple also receives financial education at marriage retreats thanks to Catholic Charities. Sometimes, life can take a turn, and darkness can grow. Catholic Charities’ counselors are there, walking with people struggling in today’s world.

Pam: These last years have been a challenge. A decade ago, I lost my husband. Then, I battled cancer. COVID came, and two of my best friends passed away. Amidst all of this, finances became a struggle, and I didn’t know where to turn. Thanks to Christel at Catholic Charities, I’ve learned how I can take the darkest moments of my life and use them to create a brighter future.

Narrator: While Catholic Charities does not provide financial assistance, they do offer counseling for clients like Pam to create their own budgets and find light in their lives again. Christel, a financial health counselor at Catholic Charities, has partnered with Pam and continues to walk with her on her journey.

Pam: Without the support of Catholic Charities, I would still be in that despair.

Pam: So this was a total 180 from that despair to coming now and just saying, "Oh, this is wonderful. I feel so much better."

Christel: Because of your gifts to the Bishop's Appeal, I have the opportunity to help clients like Pam. Our caring team also works with people facing mental health issues, and growing their family through adoption. Thank you for helping Catholic Charities *Be the Light*.

Bishop: As some people find healing through Catholic Charities, others receive training to become leaders in their parishes through an intensive year of study in the Missionary Leadership Institute program. Our children begin their walk with Jesus in our parishes and Catholic schools. Deacons are formed to walk with parishioners on their faith journey.

Bishop: Because of you, more people are encountering and sharing Jesus. In John 8:12, Jesus says, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." This is a powerful reminder. By following Jesus and sharing Him with others, we bring more light to this world.

Thank you for joining me in bringing light to the darkness. Please prayerfully consider making a generous gift to the Bishop's Appeal. On behalf of all those who are served – thank you again! May God bless you and your family abundantly. In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.