

Bishop's Appeal Witness Talk - Catechist

Your voice matters. When you speak from the heart, you help others see the real, living impact of the Bishop's Appeal—not just as a campaign, but as a mission of love, mercy, and hope. Your story can inspire someone to give, to serve, and to believe.

Your Role as a Witness Speaker

You are not just giving a talk. You are giving a testimony. You are the face of the Appeal in your parish. Whether you're a catechist, a parish council member, a deacon, a finance council member, someone who has received help from Catholic Charities, or someone whose life has been touched by other diocesan ministries, your story brings the Appeal to life.

Before You Begin: Reflect Deeply

Ask yourself:

- How has the Bishop's Appeal supported my formation and training as a catechist through workshops, retreats, resources, or mentoring?
- How has this training strengthened my parish's faith formation program and helped me better serve our children, teens, and adults?
- Who in my parish has grown in their faith because of the skills, materials, or support I've received as a catechist?
- Why do I choose to support the Bishop's Appeal, and why do I believe others should invest in the formation of catechists and disciples?

Let your answers guide your message.

Suggested Structure for Your Talk

1. Warm Introduction

Start with a heartfelt greeting:

“Hello, I'm <Speaker Name>, and I've been a catechist at <Parish Name> for <Number of Years> years. I'm here to share how the Bishop's Appeal helps us pass on the faith to the next generation.”

2. Personal Story

“Thanks to the Appeal, I've received training, resources, and support that help me teach our children about Jesus. It's not just about lessons. It's about forming disciples. Because of your gift, I was able to help so many children. However, one story stands out to me. Your support helped <Child Name> in our parish faith formation program have a deep encounter with our Lord. He/She is now on fire for his/her faith.”

“Thanks to the Bishop’s Appeal, I’ve received training, resources, and support that have shaped my journey as a catechist. This formation has deepened my own relationship with Jesus and equipped me to serve our parish with confidence and joy. It’s not just about teaching lessons. It’s about forming disciples and helping others encounter Christ. Your generosity makes this ministry possible, and I’m grateful for how it continues to transform both my life and the life of our parish.”

3. Connection to the Diocese

“The Appeal funds faith formation across the diocese, ensuring that every parish has the tools to nurture young hearts and minds.”

4. Make the Ask

“I invite you to join me in giving. Whether this is your first time supporting the Bishop’s Appeal, or you’ve given for many years, your gift strengthens the ministries that form disciples, including the training and support our catechists rely on to serve our parish with faith and confidence. Increasing participation this year will allow even more families and individuals to experience the light of Christ through these ministries. A first-time gift of just \$25 makes a meaningful difference.

If you are able, a gift of \$500 or more enrolls you in the Crozier Society—a community of more than 3,700 supporters who help the Church extend the mission of Jesus even further. Crozier members are invited to the fall Mass and Luncheon and the Spring Crozier Mass with Bishop Ricken, receive the Little Book series during Advent, Lent, and Easter, and hear updates on diocesan ministries throughout the year.

You can return your pledge card by mail, or give online at www.catholicfoundationgb.org/give. The link is also available in your bulletin.”

5. Close with Gratitude

End with warmth and encouragement:

“Thank you for believing in the power of faith to change lives. Thank you for believing in the formation that shapes hearts, strengthens families, and builds up our parish community. Thank you for believing in our Church: its mission, its hope, and its future. Your generosity helps light the path for others to encounter Jesus.”

Quick Facts to Support Your Talk

What is the Bishop’s Appeal? It’s the annual diocesan campaign that sustains the ministries that help our Church shine Christ’s light across northeastern Wisconsin, especially through the formation and support of our catechists. The Appeal provides the training, resources, and spiritual nourishment that equip them to share the faith with confidence and compassion. Through your generosity, the people who teach, guide, and inspire our parish families are strengthened to lead others closer to Jesus.

Your Gifts Are Already at Work:

- **More than 500 catechists and Catholic school teachers** have received training, attended development days, and can count on the Office of Evangelizing Catechesis and Catholic schools. Because of your support, these educators help more than 22,500 children begin a lifelong friendship with Jesus.
- **More than 10,000 people** have experienced the light of Christ through the compassionate outreach of Catholic Charities.
- **More than 1,400 disciples** have been formed through diocesan Entrust Retreats and the Missionary Leadership Institute. These leaders are given resources and inspiration to share Jesus with more people in our parishes.
- **More than 150 deacons** walk with parishioners through the hills and valleys of life.

Why It Matters: The Appeal helps us live our faith not only in words, but also in action. It's how we care for the vulnerable, teach the next generation, and build strong, faith-filled communities

For questions or more information about Witness Talks, please contact Tammy Danz, Bishop's Appeal Director, at 920.272.8123, email bishopsappeal@cgbwi.org or visit the Catholic Foundation website at www.catholicfoundationgb.org. Thank you!