

## **Bishop's Appeal Witness Talk – Finance Council Member**

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 made a difference in my life?
- How has it strengthened my parish?
- Who in my community has been helped because of it?
- Why do I choose to give, and why do I believe others should too?

Let your answers guide your message.

## **Suggested Structure for Your Talk**

### **1. Warm Introduction**

Start with a heartfelt greeting:

“Good morning. I’m <Speaker Name>, and I serve on the Finance Council at <Parish Name>. I’d like to share how the Bishop’s Appeal helps us steward our resources wisely and faithfully and how the Diocese is there to provide us with counsel for any financial questions our parish has.”

### **2. Personal Story**

“The Appeal provides training and guidance that help us manage parish finances with transparency and care. It’s about ensuring every dollar serves the mission at <Parish Name>.”

### **3. Connection to the Diocese**

“From parish support to diocesan ministries, the Bishop’s Appeal ensures our Church remains strong, accountable, and mission-driven. The Appeal helps cover the real costs of forming and training those who serve our parishes—catechists, deacons, pastoral leaders, and Catholic

Charities staff—providing the education, resources, and support needed to guide families, accompany those in need of Jesus' love, and strengthen faith in every corner of our Diocese.”

#### 4. Make the Ask

“I invite you to give generously. Your gift is an investment in the future of our parish and our diocese. You can return your pledge card by mail or give online at [www.catholicfoundationgb.org/give](http://www.catholicfoundationgb.org/give). The link is also available in your bulletin.”

#### 5. Close with Gratitude

End with warmth and encouragement:

“Thank you for your trust and your support.”

### Quick Facts to Support Your Talk

**What is the Bishop's Appeal?** It's an annual appeal that funds vital diocesan ministries across northeastern Wisconsin. This includes the financial resources and administrative support our parishes rely on. Through the Appeal, diocesan staff provides guidance to parish Finance Councils, help with budgeting, audits, and stewardship best practices, and ensure parishes have the tools they need to manage resources responsibly. This support helps our parish remain strong, transparent, and mission-focused, so we can continue sharing the light of Christ with our community.

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@crgbwi.org](mailto:bishopsappeal@crgbwi.org) or visit the Catholic Foundation website at [www.catholicfoundationgb.org](http://www.catholicfoundationgb.org). Thank you!