

2026 Bishop's Appeal Campaign Manual

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Catholic Foundation *for the Diocese of Green Bay, Inc.*

January 2026

Dear Pastor, Administrator, Pastoral Leader,
Bishop's Appeal Chairperson and Secretary:

Thank you for your support of the Bishop's Appeal. With your help, last year we were able to raise more than \$6,600,000. More importantly, we were able to help thousands of people throughout northeastern Wisconsin be able to discover, follow, worship and share Jesus with others.

The theme for the 2026 Bishop's Appeal is *Be the Light*. The 2026 campaign will again be managed by the Catholic Foundation. Enclosed within this manual are some helpful hints and tools to guide you through the next few months of the 2026 Bishop's Appeal. One of the most important strategies for a successful Appeal is to share our stories about how the ministries of the Diocese make an impact on thousands of people each year.

Thank you for all your support of the Bishop's Appeal.

God bless,

Tammy Danz
Bishop's Appeal Director



Catholic Diocese of Green Bay

Stewardship Prayer

Generous and loving God,

You call us to be disciples of your Son Jesus and good stewards of all your many gifts. Open our minds and hearts to a greater awareness and deeper appreciation of your countless blessings.

Transform us through the power of your Spirit to nurture a Stewardship way of life marked by faith-filled prayer, service to our neighbor and generous sharing.

Teach us to be faithful servants of your gifts. With Mary's help, may we return ten-fold the gifts entrusted to us.

We pray through Christ, our Lord. Amen

Bishop's Appeal 2026 Timetable

The items in bold are to be completed by the parish.

November 2025	Crozier and early solicitation letters mailed.
November 2025	Parish Crozier Recruitment Events planned and completed in November or January.
Early January 2026	Bishop's Appeal goal letters mailed to parishes.
Early January 2026	Bishop's Appeal letter and parishioner database are sent to the mailing company.
January 15, 21 & 22	Bishop's Appeal Kick-off Meetings
January 24	Hang posters throughout the parish and begin promoting the upcoming Bishop's Appeal in the bulletin.
Jan 31 & Feb 1	Announce upcoming Bishop's Appeal at weekend Masses.
February 7-8	Bishop's Appeal First Weekend. At all Masses, please have the pastor or pastoral leader give a homily or an announcement on how the Appeal impacts parish life through ministries offered by the Diocese. If not the pastor or pastoral leader, please use Bishop Ricken's Appeal Audio Homily for the weekend Masses.
February 9-13	Bishop's Appeal first solicitation arrives in homes.
February 14-15	Share the Bishop's Appeal Video at Mass and encourage parishioners to support the Appeal with a gift.
February 17 & ongoing	Weekly Bishop's Appeal reports emailed to parishes each Tuesday so they will be received in time for the next week's bulletin. (Please let us know if you prefer your reports sent to a different email address)

February 21-22	Have a parishioner or staff person give a testimonial at Mass during the announcements.
Late February	Please forward all gifts received at the parish to the Catholic Foundation before the March follow-up letter is sent.
Feb 28 & Ongoing	Update your parishioners at Mass on the performance of the Appeal.
In the middle of March	Bishop's Appeal first follow-up letter is mailed in March.
Early April	Please forward all gifts received at the parish to the Catholic Foundation before the April follow-up letter is sent.
In April	Bishop's Appeal second follow-up letter is mailed in April.
May	Follow-up letter will be sent if needed.
June	Follow-up flyer will be sent to prior donors if needed.
Late June	Thank everyone for their support of the Bishop's Appeal.
September	Donor report will be mailed to all parishes.
December	Invoices and refunds mailed from the Diocese.
Ongoing	The Catholic Foundation will send a thank you letter to each donor within one week after the gift is recorded.
Ongoing	A thank you letter will be sent by the Catholic Foundation to the parish when their goal is reached.

Please call the Catholic Foundation for lists. Requests will be handled on a first come, first served basis so please give us a one-week notice. Thank you!

The above are target dates. Actual dates may vary.



How does the Bishop's Appeal work?

The Bishop's Appeal is an annual fund-raising campaign conducted by the Catholic Foundation to benefit the Catholic Diocese of Green Bay. Its purpose is to raise funds to support the Catholic mission. To ensure this goal is met, every Catholic family or individual in the Diocese is asked to make a gift to support the work of the Church. These gifts provide the necessary resources for programs and services to our parishes and schools, which shape the lives of individuals and communities throughout northeastern Wisconsin.

Your help makes this campaign possible!

Without the support of pastors, pastoral leaders, staff and volunteers this campaign would not be as successful as it is every year.

How can you help?

In addition to making a gift to the campaign, leaders in your parish community are needed to help promote the Appeal among parishioners. This can be accomplished through these roles:

- Pastor/Pastoral Leader
- Appeal Chairperson
- Appeal/Parish Secretary

How is the Bishop's Appeal impacting lives in my community?



Be the LIGHT
through your support of our Catholic educators

Did you know within our diocese, more than 25,000 children participate in Catholic schools or faith formation classes? Through different education programs, children learn to know and love Jesus.

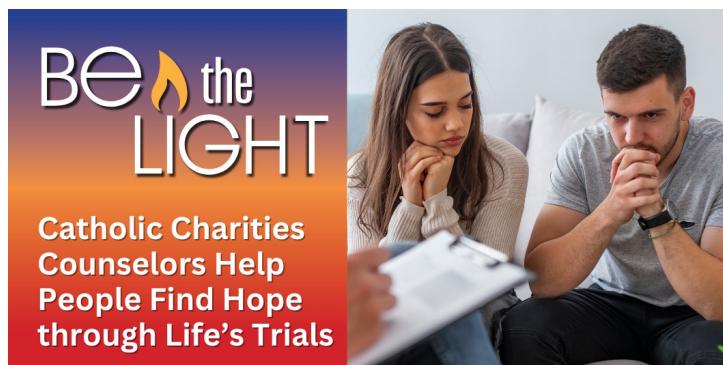
Your gift to the Bishop's Appeal provides training and support for Catholic educators. Help them inspire disciples in our school.



Please give generously at
www.catholicfoundationgb.org/give

The Bishop's Appeal reaches out to thousands of people each year, providing funding to assist the many ministries and services of the Diocese of Green Bay.

Look for these "Mini-Stories" that can be printed in your weekly bulletins to provide examples of how Bishop's Appeal funds are shared with people throughout the Diocese.



Be the LIGHT
Catholic Charities Counselors Help People Find Hope through Life's Trials

When couples face problems in their marriage, Catholic Charities offers help. Here couples can work on issues caused by poor communication, family issues, financial burdens, infidelity, resentment, and other challenges in their relationship.

Your gift to the Bishop's Appeal helps Catholic Charities promote healthy marriages and funds counseling for those in need.

SCAN
ME! »



Be the LIGHT
Helping Our Youth Discover Jesus

Helping children discover Jesus is one of the most important things we do as Catholics. This happens every day in our parishes and in our Catholic schools.

Your support of the Bishop's Appeal funds the tools and training for youth ministers and faith formation leaders across northeastern Wisconsin.



Please give generously at
www.catholicfoundationgb.org/give

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www.catholicfoundationgb.org/give

The Crozier Society

A Call to Leadership

The Crozier Society offers us a special way to join the Bishop, supporting him as he guides us on our faith journey. As special partners with the Bishop, Crozier Society members will have opportunities for closer involvement in the mission of the Catholic Church in northeastern Wisconsin. Please remember to ask your parishioners to prayerfully consider making a gift of \$500 or more to the Bishop's Appeal.

Crozier Society members are honored by:

- An invitation to the annual Bishop's Appreciation Mass and Luncheon in the Fall, sponsored by Aon, Catholic Mutual Group, Nicolet National Bank and Heyrman Printing
- An invitation to an annual Spring Mass and reception with members of the Crozier Society, hosted by the Bishop
- The Little Book Series for Advent, Lent and Easter
- Invitations to special diocesan events



Crozier Society Giving Levels

Saint Francis Xavier Leadership Circle

\$25,000

Father Claude Allouez Leadership Circle

\$10,000

Saint Kateri Tekakwitha Circle

\$5,000

Saint Katharine Drexel Circle

\$2,500

Bishop John B. Grellinger Circle

\$1,000

Partner

\$500

More information can be obtained from the Catholic Foundation. See page 24 for contact details.

Growing the Crozier Society to Reach Your Parish's Goal

Many parishes in past years have reached their Bishop's Appeal goal by focusing on growing the Crozier Society at their parish. Below you will find three ways to promote the Crozier Society in your parish.

- A. **Personal witness and request to consider joining the Crozier Society.** This can happen from the pastor or pastoral leader or with a current Crozier Society member from the parish. Please share with the individual why you feel being a member in the society is so important.
- B. **Send a personal letter to Crozier prospects within your parish.** This method has been very successful. If you would like the Catholic Foundation to suggest some parishioners who may be able to give at the Crozier levels, please contact us. A sample Crozier Society Recruitment Letter is on page 10. It is important to share how the Bishop's Appeal has impacted your parish's members in the letter. Maybe mention a deacon or director of religious education who has received support through the Appeal. Putting a local face to the campaign helps everyone see the impact of the Appeal.
- C. **Host a Crozier Society event.** Steps for a successful event.
 1. Invite two Crozier Society couples or if your parish does not have any Crozier members, invite 2 couples that are leaders in your parish to help with the event.
 2. Visit with the Catholic Foundation about what date you would like to have the Crozier Recruitment event and what parishioners should be invited. The Foundation can provide you a mailing list.
 3. Prepare invites for the event. (please include a RSVP)
 4. Other materials to prepare:
(contact the Catholic Foundation if you have questions)
 - agenda
 - materials (pledge cards, envelopes and brochures)
 - atmosphere and refreshments
 - sample talking points for Father or event leader
 5. Consider a bulletin ad to promote the event.
 6. Follow up with a phone call to each family about the event.
 7. At the event have a parish leader present their story of how the Bishop's Appeal has helped them. The Catholic Foundation would like to have a representative at your meeting to answer questions and if needed, make the ask.
 8. After the event, send a thank you letter for attending the event.
 9. Follow-up with those who did not fill out a card.
 10. Ask the Foundation for the results of the event a few weeks later.

Crozier Society Sample Recruitment Letter

{Date}

{Addressee}
{Street}
{City} {State} {Zip}

Dear {Salutation};

We live in challenging times. Fortunately, the challenges we face are bringing out the best in all of us, so it is with great hope that I ask you this year to take a step in faith by supporting the Bishop's Appeal even more generously than before.

It is our faith in Jesus Christ that motivates us to be generous in helping the poor and in supporting the work of the Church. It is that same faith that dares us to give even more than we have before. And since God is never outdone in generosity, God graciously deepens and strengthens our faith when we give generously.

Faith tells us that the work of the Church is Jesus' work. A large part of the work of the Church is sharing our faith with others. With your help we can continue educating our children, comforting the sick and reaching out to families in need. Your gift in faith will prepare parish youth ministers to help thousands of children and young adults open their hearts to Jesus through prayer and community service.

Your gift this year is more important than ever. Countless people are searching for Jesus and finding His love through the ministries and services of the Diocese of Green Bay.

Because there are so many people in need of our services, I encourage you to join me as a member of the Crozier Society. To join, please make a \$500 gift or more to the Bishop's Appeal. Please know that whatever gift you are able to make is greatly appreciated.

You have been a great help to me, but more importantly, to the Lord, in carrying out His mission. Thank you again for your past support of the Appeal and for your continuing support of the Diocese of Green Bay. Please remember to pray for the ministries of our Diocese, as I shall remember you and your loved ones in my prayers.

Sincerely,

Pastor

Guidelines for the Pastor, Pastoral Leader, Administrator, Bishop's Appeal Secretary or Chairperson

Before You Start

RESEARCH: Think about how the Diocese helps your parish or Catholic school. Read through your role guidelines and look at the success tips in this manual for learning new ways to focus your Appeal campaign.

During the Campaign

OFFER ENCOURAGEMENT: People are more likely to donate when they feel the cause is “up close and personal” and when they sense a connective link between their parish and the Diocese. Think about how our faith is being shared in your parish and how the Diocese has helped train parish leaders so they can share their faith with others. We suggest each pastor illustrate how the Bishop's Appeal provides services to the parish such as providing training for religious education, youth ministers and lay ministry leaders. Perhaps a parishioner with special needs was helped through disability ministry.

USE CAMPAIGN MATERIALS: Instruction guides, posters, video, audio CD and other supplies will be delivered at the Regional meetings. Please display the posters and have extra brochures throughout the parish.

Ways to Make a Gift

PLEDGE GIFT: One of the keys to the success of the Bishop's Appeal is to encourage pledging (see pledge chart on page 24). Pledges may be paid in monthly installments from March through December. Parishioners should indicate on the pledge card the number of reminders they would like to have sent. We will send reminders beginning in March through December.

ONE-TIME GIFT: Another option for parishioners is making a one-time gift. Please caution against giving “cash” - cash gets lost.

CREDIT CARD GIFT: Use of credit cards for payment of Bishop's Appeal gifts and pledges has increased substantially in recent years. We can arrange periodic charges to the donor's credit card to pay pledge commitments. We accept MasterCard, VISA, Discover and American Express.

STOCK GIFT: By making a gift of stock a donor has an opportunity to easily give stock to make a gift from other assets. Please contact Ken Kolarik at 920-272-8264 to make a stock transfer.

ELECTRONIC FUND TRANSFER (EFT): Is an easy method for donors to pledge a gift over 10 months. After the donor fills out the registration form, the Catholic Foundation will automatically deduct from their checking or saving account the monthly amount of their pledge.

After a Gift is Made

FORWARD THE GIFT TO THE FOUNDATION: Follow the instructions on page 19 to ensure that all gifts are recorded properly.

THANK THE DONOR: The Catholic Foundation will send out a thank you letter and receipt but it is always good to thank a donor more than once. Every gift is essential to our ministry and mission in the Catholic Diocese of Green Bay.

Five Keys for a Successful Bishop's Appeal Campaign

1. Present personal testimonies on how the Bishop's Appeal opens hearts, changes minds and transforms lives. Share stories from the Pastor/Pastoral Leader and from members of your parish who have received training in part because of the Bishop's Appeal. Look for the "Witness Talk Guide" for assistance in utilizing testimonies during Mass.
2. Offer strong encouragement during Mass. The passion and commitment of parish leadership is vital to the success of the Bishop's Appeal.
3. Show the Bishop's Appeal video and share social media posts with as many people as possible.
4. Encourage parishioners to consider making a Crozier Society gift. Set up a Crozier Recruitment event to ask parishioners to help their parish and Diocese by joining the Society.
5. Encourage pledging as a way of making gifts last all year.

And most importantly...

Thank all donors and volunteers.

Publicity

Informing your parishioners about the Bishop's Appeal

POSTERS: The posters provided to you by the Diocese should be hung in prominent places throughout your Church and other parish buildings.

AUDIO AND VIDEO: You will receive the Bishop's Appeal video and an audio CD of Bishop Ricken's homily. The Bishop's homily on CD and a copy of the video in DVD format are provided. Below is some information that should help you show the Bishop's Appeal video before, during or after Mass this year. Most parishes find that with adequate preparation, they can iron out any technical problems that may occur the first time they use the video. For the deaf and hearing impaired please, share with them the transcript of the video. If you would like to have the Diocese arrange for a sign language interpreter, please let us know three weeks in advance.

BULLETIN ADS & MINI-STORIES: Small Bulletin Ads and Mini-Stories are included on a CD and on the Catholic Foundation website. There are two formats to choose from -- PDF and JPG. Choose a format and insert the file into your document as you would any other graphic file. Find these graphics on our website at www.catholicfoundationgb.org under Parish Resources.

REMEMBER: The more often parishioners are reminded about the impact of the Bishop's Appeal, the more likely they are to make a gift.

Notes Regarding Video Equipment

- Video projectors may not be adequate in parishes that have too much light.
- Putting the microphone next to the television speaker may garble the sound - it is necessary to hook up the sound system directly.
- Test the downloaded video, DVD or CD and system well before the showing or listening.
- **It is a very good idea to preview the media materials to check quality. Also check sound and visibility and view the materials in Church BEFORE they are used.**
- If using a DVD, the video will appear on screen between 30 and 90 seconds after pressing play. This is normal.

WHETHER OR NOT YOU ARE ABLE TO SHOW THE VIDEO DURING MASS, PLEASE CONSIDER SHOWING IT TO THE PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL, FINANCE COUNCIL, MEN'S AND WOMEN'S ORGANIZATIONS AND AT MEETINGS OF OTHER ACTIVE MINISTRIES IN THE PARISH.

Follow-Up Plan

We will try to follow the timetable as closely as possible. Follow-up letters will be mailed to parishioners who have not yet made a gift to the 2026 Appeal.

- 1) The first follow-up letter will be mailed by the Catholic Foundation in March.
Everyone whose gift has not been recorded will receive a follow-up letter. There will be overlaps (letters and donations crossing in the mail). **If your parishioners return the card with \$0 indicated for a gift, they will not receive a follow-up letter.**
- 2) The second follow-up letter will be mailed by the Catholic Foundation in April.
Again, there may be overlaps.
- 3) **Each parish has the option to send a personal follow-up from the pastor in May.**
We advise sending a follow-up letter from the pastor or pastoral leader in May.
The Catholic Foundation is willing to help you with your follow-up mailing. The Foundation will print your letter and take care of mailing your letter. There are sample letters on page 22-23. Please contact the Catholic Foundation three weeks in advance if you would like the Foundation to handle your mailing. If your parish would like to do their own mailing, you can request non-donor mailing labels from the Catholic Foundation. Cards and return envelopes are available from the Foundation. A list of recorded gifts is also available. If you send a follow-up, please send a copy of the letter to us.
- 5) The Catholic Foundation may also send out additional mailings if needed.

Role of the Pastor or Pastoral Leader

As the pastor/pastoral leader and leader of the parish, you have the most important role in the Bishop's Appeal campaign. Your **active participation** will result in a successful Bishop's Appeal for your parish. ***Please use specific examples of how your parish benefits from services and programs provided by the Diocese.*** They are the most personal and persuasive reasons to give.

Additional materials including brochures, pledge cards, posters, ambo and bulletin announcements, audio CD of Bishop Ricken's homily and a Bishop's Appeal video are provided to help you promote the Bishop's Appeal. While these are important ingredients to communicate needs effectively, **the most important factor in the success of the Bishop's Appeal is you!** As a person of faith and a leader of the parish, your witness to this need and your personal request to the people of your parish to generously support the 2026 Bishop's Appeal cannot be matched.

Your enthusiasm for the Appeal, both in and out of Church, is crucial!

In addition to your verbal support, leadership and encouragement...

1) Incorporate the Appeal into Mass

- Please announce the Bishop's Appeal a week or two in advance.
- Use of the video, Bishop's homily CD or your own homily promoting the Bishop's Appeal at all Masses over the Bishop's Appeal weekends is very important for a successful Appeal.
- For use with the homily this year each pastor will have a chance to talk about the Appeal after Bishop Ricken's homily.
- Utilize witness talks as part of the Mass. Witnesses are parishioners who have benefitted from the Appeal in some way by having attended a training program or attended a speaker series funded by the Appeal. See the "Witness Talk Guide" for direction in incorporating witness talks into Mass.
- Use the Prayers of the Faithful included on page 21 or create your own.

2) Monitor the Progress

- Please monitor the progress of your parish drive. Plan a follow-up letter to be sent to anyone who has not responded to the Appeal by **May**. (See the follow-up plan on page 14 and the sample letters provided on pages 22 and 23 in this guide.)
- Make sure gifts are forwarded to the Catholic Foundation in a timely manner.

"The better informed a donor is, the more likely they will make a gift!"

Top Five Ways To Enhance The Bishop's Appeal In Your Parish

- 1) Be enthusiastic about how the Bishop's Appeal impacts people in your parish and throughout the Diocese.
- 2) Write a letter in the parish bulletin summarizing how the Bishop's Appeal has helped your parish in specific ways.
- 3) Encourage Stewardship as a way of life.
- 4) Ask parishioners to join you in improving our Diocese and focus your efforts on the people impacted by the Bishop's Appeal.
- 5) Make use of promotional materials, including the video and bulletin ads.

Role of the Appeal Chairperson

As a parish leader, your main responsibility is to work with the pastor or pastoral leader and Bishop's Appeal secretary to make sure the Appeal is conducted and progresses according to the timetable. Your enthusiasm with other parish leadership and parishioners is critical to the success of the Bishop's Appeal.

Specifically, your responsibilities include:

1) **Communicate**

- Make sure promotional materials are well utilized in the parish, i.e. posters put up two weeks prior to Appeal, bulletin and ambo/pulpit announcements used in a timely manner.
- Help determine how the video can be effectively utilized in your parish setting Incorporating the video into your social media or streaming Mass is a great way to keep people at home engaged, too.

2) **Coordinate**

- Notify the Catholic Foundation who will serve as your parish's Bishop's Appeal chairperson and secretary.
- Coordinate with the pastor/pastoral leader to let the Catholic Foundation know how the parish would like a potential refund used— returned to parish, applied to Cathedraticum or remain with the Bishop's Appeal. If we do not hear from you, we will use the same method that was used in the past. (If you have a current debt with the Diocese, the refund will be applied to that debt.)
- Coordinate Appeal activities with the Appeal secretary. Although the secretary will do most of the “book work,” the chairperson should be familiar with the system.

REMEMBER, ALL DONOR INFORMATION IS CONFIDENTIAL!

Role of the Appeal/Parish Secretary

You have a very important role in the success of the Bishop's Appeal, and one important responsibility you have is to maintain the parish list. An up-to-date member mailing list is very important to a successful Appeal. Please make sure lists are free of wrong addresses and remove the names of people who have died or moved. A complete member list will be provided to parishes at their request. Please send regular updates to the Catholic Foundation via List Manager and feel free to call us if you have questions about updating your list.

In addition to maintaining the parish list, your responsibilities include:

1) Communication

- Place Appeal posters in the Church, parish hall and school.
- Insert announcements in the parish bulletin.
- Prepare announcements for Mass.
- Prepare Prayers of the Faithful for Mass.

2) Gift Processing

- Forward Bishop's Appeal gifts received at the parish to the Catholic Foundation on a timely basis (at least biweekly).
- To get an up-to-date donor list, call Tammy at 920-272-8123 or toll free 877-500-3580 ext. 8123 about a week before needed.
- **Please Do Not Mail Cash**
- Some parishes send sealed envelopes from donors to the Catholic Foundation. For security, please mail these gifts to the Lock Box address:

Bishop's Appeal
Catholic Foundation for the Diocese of Green Bay, Inc.
PO Box 23001
Green Bay WI 54305-3001

3) Follow-up

- Prepare a follow-up mailing according to instructions. (See follow-up plan on page 14 and the sample letters provided on pages 22 and 23).
- Publish and announce progress of the Appeal to your parishioners.

Essentially it is the Appeal/Parish Secretary who makes sure the entire Appeal is conducted according to the timetable. Thank you! Please call Tammy, Megan or Josh at 920-272-8123 or toll free 877-500-3580 ext. 8123, with any questions, comments or suggestions.

REMEMBER, ALL DONOR INFORMATION IS CONFIDENTIAL!

How to Forward Gifts Received at the Parish

Parishioners often bring their Bishop's Appeal gifts to the parish. Please send new gifts promptly to the Catholic Foundation so parishioner accounts are credited in a timely manner and a thank you letter can be sent to them. If you hold them, parishioners may receive follow-up mailings, which can often create confusion for the donors.

- 1) Please forward envelopes to the Catholic Foundation at this address:

Bishop's Appeal
Catholic Foundation for the Diocese of Green Bay, Inc.
PO Box 23001
Green Bay, WI 54305-3001

- 2) If the envelope is open, please remove the contents and make sure the gift card and check is completely filled out. Return the contents to the envelope and forward to the Foundation Bishop's Appeal PO Box.
- 3) Please do not mail cash. If the envelope contains cash, please deposit it in the parish account and issue a check to the Bishop's Appeal in the amount of the cash. Make sure the cash amount is written on the gift card or envelope as well as all donor information from the envelope.
- 3) If your pastor/pastoral leader would like a list of people who have made a gift, please contact the Catholic Foundation.

Call Tammy, Megan or Debbie at 920-272-8123 or
toll free 877-500-3580 ext. 8123 with any questions or suggestions!

Ambo/Pulpit Announcements

Bishop's Appeal 2026

Announcement A

As a Catholic community each of us are faces of faith and called to go forth and share the Good News. This year the Bishop's Appeal is offering each of us the opportunity to reach out to those in need as well as continue the ministry and education programs within our own parish. Soon you will be receiving a letter in the mail asking you to give a gift to the Bishop's Appeal. I encourage you to prayerfully consider giving generously to this year's Appeal.

Announcement B

Be the Light is the theme for this year's Bishop's Appeal. Soon you will receive a letter from Bishop David Ricken asking for your support of the Appeal. By contributing, you help our parish and the Diocese share in the important work of reaching out to those in need. Your generous pledge or gift will help our parish meet its goal for the Appeal. Please read the materials that are enclosed with the letter and return your completed pledge card to the Catholic Foundation. If you did not receive a letter in the mail, please contact our parish office.

Announcement C

During the first week of February, parish members will receive a letter from Bishop David Ricken requesting a pledge or gift to the 2026 Bishop's Appeal. With the letter, you will receive a pledge card and return envelope. Please mail your envelope to the Catholic Foundation. Last year, through your generosity, the Bishop's Appeal campaign received more than \$6.6 million in gifts that is being used to share our faith with hundreds of thousands of people throughout northeastern Wisconsin. We ask again for your generous response to help our parish meet its goal for this year. If you did not receive a letter in the mail, please contact our parish office.

Announcement D

Watch your mail during the first full week of February. It will contain an important letter from Bishop David Ricken asking for your participation in the 2026 Bishop's Appeal. Also enclosed will be a brochure and pledge card to return your gift to the Catholic Foundation. To find out how the Appeal funds are used, please read the brochure or see me after Mass. Thank you!

Sample #1 - Follow-up Letter for Parish Mailing

Given to parishioners who have not yet committed
to the 2026 Bishop's Appeal

(Use parish letterhead)

Dear _____

On February 7-8 the Bishop's Appeal began in the Green Bay Diocese. (Parish name) is making good progress on our goal of \$_____ for this year's campaign. We have received \$_____ in gifts and pledges so far, with ___ percent of our parish families already making gifts.

Since we have not received your gift yet, I ask that you please consider making a pledge to the Bishop's Appeal at this time. The theme of this year's Appeal is *Be the Light*. Bishop Ricken asks all of us to share Christ's love by participating in this Appeal and continuing the important work of our Diocese.

As members of (Parish), we have a responsibility to share Christ's saving love with others. Your commitment to the 2026 Bishop's Appeal helps bring Christ in Word and Sacrament to young and old.

I ask for your sacrificial support of the 2026 Bishop's Appeal. Please prayerfully consider the question, "What can I return to the Lord for all He has given me?" Thousands of people throughout northeastern Wisconsin are counting on your generosity.

Please complete the enclosed card and return it to me either through the collection basket or by mailing it to the parish. Your support is vital. Thank you for your support of the Bishop's Appeal and (Parish).

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Pastor/Pastoral Leader

Sample #2 - Follow-up Letter for Parish Mailing

Given to parishioners who have not yet committed
to the 2026 Bishop's Appeal

(Use parish letterhead)

Dear _____

(Parish name) is making steady progress toward our 2026 Bishop's Appeal goal of \$ _____. The Appeal began February 7-8 as Bishop David Ricken asked us to support the important work of our diocesan departments and programs.

Currently our parish has not received information from you indicating your level of commitment. I hope that you will prayerfully consider contributing generously towards the needs of our Church. Your pledge will be gratefully received and deeply appreciated.

Your help is needed if we are to continue living out our baptismal call to be faces of faith to those in need. Your gift will help us provide for the needs of Catholics in our Diocese. Among these needs are religious education classes for children with disabilities, training for youth ministers to help teens grow in faith, Catholic Charities helping people deal with tragic events in their lives and training for men and women serving as parish leaders in a variety of ways.

Please consider how you might share your gifts with others. Then complete the enclosed card and return it to me either through the collection basket or by mailing it to the parish.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Pastor/Pastoral Leader

Pledge Gifts

Pledge gifts are vital!

Encourage parishioners to make a pledge gift. Bishop's Appeal pledge gifts are almost double the size of cash gifts. Review the chart below for suggested amounts.

How much should I give?

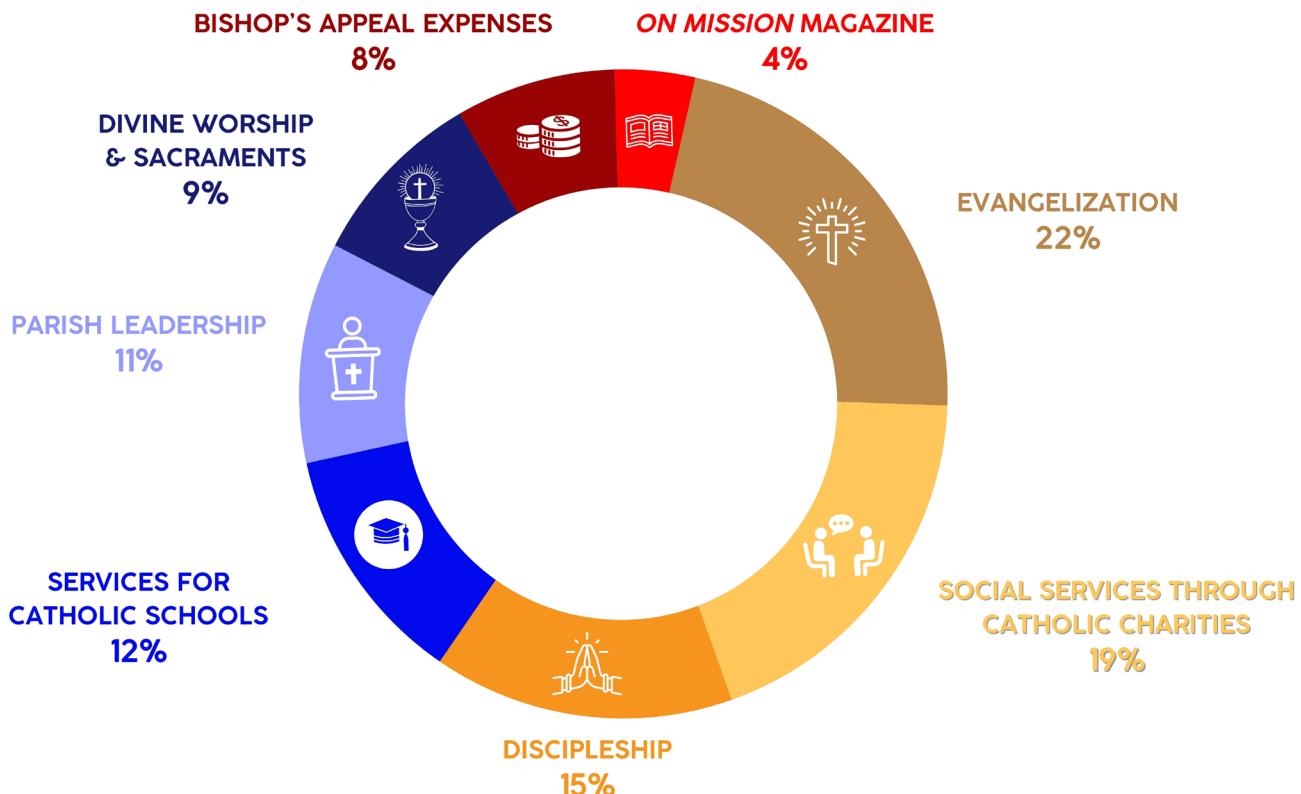
Parish leaders are often asked for guidelines to answer the question, "How much should I give?" There is no simple answer to that question. An understanding of stewardship leads us to approach giving from a positive stance, that making a gift to the Church is a personal matter between God and the giver. This is a personal decision that each of us makes after prayerfully considering all that God has given to us. Currently the Diocese recommends a gift of one percent of income to the Bishop's Appeal. This comes from scriptural references of God's request to His people to tithe 10% of their income. It has been suggested that the tithe be divided in this manner: 5% to our parish, 4% to other worthy causes, 1% to the Bishop's Appeal.

Remember, all gifts are appreciated.

SUGGESTED GIVING GUIDELINES				
HOURLY PAY	ANNUAL EARNINGS	A 1% PLEDGE GIFT	10 MONTHLY PAYMENTS OF	TOTAL GIFT
\$ 75	\$156,000	\$1,560	\$156.00	\$1,560 *
50	104,000	1,040	140.00	1,400 *
40	83,200	832	83.20	832 *
30	62,400	624	62.40	624 *
25	52,000	520	52.00	520 *
20	41,600	416	41.60	416
15	31,200	312	31.20	312
12	24,960	249	24.90	249
10	20,800	208	20.80	208
5	10,400	104	10.40	104

*** CROZIER LEVEL**

How is my gift used?



If at any time you have a question about the Bishop's Appeal campaign, please feel free to contact a member of the Catholic Foundation staff.

Josh Diedrich
Executive Director..... 877-500-3580, ext. 8197

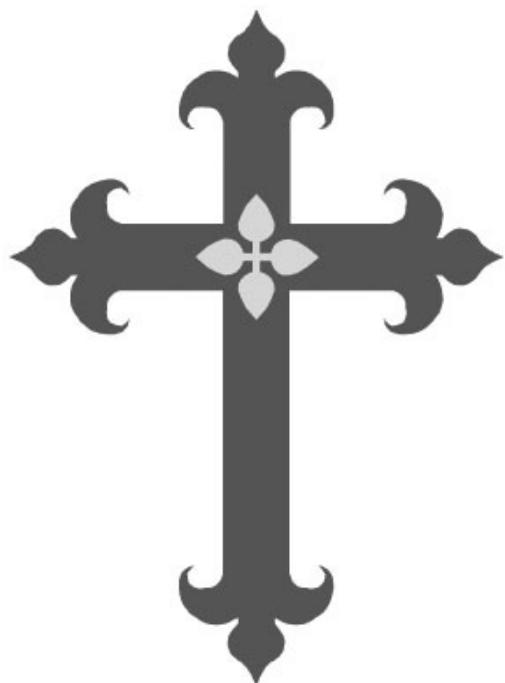
Janet Wagner
Assistant Director 877-500-3580, ext. 8199

Tammy Danz
Bishop's Appeal Director..... 877-500-3580, ext. 8123

Annie Neveau
Database Coordinator 877-500-3580, ext. 8184

THANK YOU!

On behalf of Bishop David Ricken, the Catholic Foundation and the thousands of people across northeastern Wisconsin who are impacted by the Bishop's Appeal, thank you for your hard work, dedication to the Diocese and your parish. It is truly appreciated!





Catholic Foundation

for the Diocese of Green Bay, Inc.

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