



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Bishop's Appeal campaign to launch Feb. 4-5 to benefit diocesan ministries

GREEN BAY, Wis. (Jan. 31, 2017) – Beginning this weekend, Bishop David L. Ricken will invite the nearly 324,000 Catholics across the Diocese of Green Bay to consider making a gift to the annual Bishop's Appeal, which supports the needs of the larger Church of Green Bay. The theme for 2017 is "Inspiring Disciples."

"Disciples are all around us and come from all walks of life. God calls all of us to be disciples and to make a difference," says Bishop Ricken. "Through the Bishop's Appeal, people across our diocese are being inspired to embrace Jesus as their friend and follow in His footsteps. We support ministries that help young people explore their faith, we care for people who are homebound and sick, and we bring the Word of God to thousands of people every day."

It is through the ministries of the Church that we are able to walk with people on life's journey and inspire disciples throughout the Diocese of Green Bay. People are asked to prayerfully consider how much they will pledge to this year's Bishop's Appeal. In the next week, parishioners will receive a letter from Bishop Ricken, inviting them to make a gift; or they can make a gift through the Catholic Foundation online at www.catholicfoundationgb.org/give.

This campaign impacts the lives of families, individuals and communities throughout northeastern Wisconsin by providing a variety of ministries and services.

Each gift to the Bishop's Appeal supports:

- *Catholic Charities* in extending outreach services to those most in need. Services include mental health counseling; family strengthening programs; adoption and pregnancy counseling to assist birth parents, adoptive couples and people with unplanned pregnancies; budget counseling; and more.
- *Education* in assisting Catholic schools and parishes in their mission to share our Catholic teachings with people of all ages.
- *Living Justice* in reaching out and providing opportunities for people to embrace social justice and share their faith.
- *New Evangelization* in focusing on young adult discipleship and formation and adult faith formation, while guiding people closer to Christ through prayer and worship.
- *Ministry Formation* in training and forming deacons, pastoral leaders and lay ministers.
- *Stewardship and Pastoral Services* in helping parishes develop and enhance ministries that encourage prayer, service, sharing and engagement in parish life.
- *Divine Worship* in providing liturgical resources for parishes and training for liturgists and musicians.
- *The Compass newspaper* in publishing news and information about our Church and faith.

Gifts to the Bishop's Appeal are also accepted year round. The funds are used, without exception, to support the ministries and services to thousands in need through the diocese's 16-county area. For more information, visit www.catholicfoundationgb.org/bishops-appeal/.

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Who we are: As friends and followers of Jesus, the Catholic Diocese of Green Bay is devoted to fostering households and communities of discipleship through the mission and ministry of the Catholic Church. We are missionary disciples striving to lead all people to the Kingdom of God. Established in 1868, the diocese is composed of 324,000 Catholics in 16 counties: Brown, Calumet, Door, Florence, Forest, Kewaunee, Langlade, Manitowoc, Marinette, Menominee, Oconto, Outagamie, Shawano, Waupaca, Waushara and Winnebago.

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