



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Bishop's Appeal campaign to launch Feb. 6-7 to benefit diocesan ministries

GREEN BAY, Wis. (Feb. 2, 2016) – 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 2016 is "Faces of God's Mercy."

"Our Diocese is a place of mercy and hope. Thank you for joining me in bringing the love and compassion of Jesus to many families," says Bishop Ricken. "Together we are 'Faces of God's Mercy' supporting Catholic Charities' counselors who provide guidance and hope to someone struggling. We also care for young people engaged in their faith and encourage them to welcome and inspire other youth to know and love Jesus. These are simply a few ways your gift helps people embrace God's mercy."

It is through the ministries of the Church that we are able to be the face of God's mercy to thousands of people in need of His compassion and love. 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 to refugee and immigration communities; adoption and pregnancy counseling to assist birth parents, adoptive couples and people with unplanned pregnancies; budget counseling to teach people how to responsibly manage their finances; 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: The Catholic Diocese of Green Bay boldly proclaims the Gospel of Jesus, prayerfully worships in word and sacrament, and compassionately serves those in need. Rooted in the call to form missionary disciples, we strive to spread the good news of God's love and mercy. 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.

Contact: Justine Lodl, director of communications, at 920-272-8213 or jlodl@gbdioc.org; or Sarah Bradford, communications coordinator, at 920-272-8209 or sbradford@gbdioc.org.