



Diocese of  
Green Bay

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Packers partner with Catholic Charities for 56<sup>th</sup> annual Bishop's Charities Game**

GREEN BAY, Wis. (Aug. 4, 2016) – On Thursday, August 18, the Packers will host the Oakland Raiders for the 56<sup>th</sup> annual Bishop's Charities Game at Lambeau Field. Over the years, the Bishop's Charities Game has raised approximately \$3.7 million for Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Green Bay. General ticket sales should be directed to Packers.com, the Packer ticket office or any Ticketmaster outlet.

The charitable contest began in 1961 when the diocese approached Vince Lombardi with the idea. For 34 of those years, the Bishop's Charities Game committee – led by the late Jim Hogan – sold tickets for the game and produced the game program, including the sales of all advertising for the program. These efforts were so important not only to those in need, but also to making the preseason games a success for the Packers. The efforts of many who served on the committee created tremendous fundraising success for Catholic Charities. Beginning in 1995, the Packers took over responsibility for all preparations.

Over the past 20 years, the Packers organization has generously continued to support Catholic Charities through an annual contribution supporting those in need in our community. "We take this opportunity to thank the Packers for their ongoing support of the charitable works of the Diocese of Green Bay," said Denis Hogan, son of Jim Hogan and general chair of the Bishop's Charities Game.

The long-standing partnership between the Green Bay Packers and the Diocese of Green Bay through its charitable efforts shows the commitment and concern that both organizations have toward the well-being, health and vitality of the community. "It is difficult to truly explain the tremendous good that this partnership has done in helping thousands of people overcome some of life's most devastating and challenging struggles," said Ted Phernetton, director of Catholic Charities.

Bishop David L. Ricken and Packers alumni Kevin Barry and Gerry Ellis will be available from 4:30-6 p.m. for autographs and photos at the Fan Walkway outside the Tundra Tailgate Zone on the southeast side of the stadium. Complimentary autograph cards will be provided courtesy of The Compass, the official newspaper for the Diocese of Green Bay.

Kevin Barry, a Racine, Wis. native, played offensive tackle for the Packers from 2002 to 2006. He played college football at the University of Arizona in Tucson. He made the Packers as an undrafted free agent. Barry wore jersey #71 in Green Bay. The Packers often used what they called the U-71 package where Barry served as a tight end to create a power-running formation.

Gerry Ellis, a 7<sup>th</sup> round draft pick in the 1980 NFL draft, played seven years for the Packers. He is a native of Columbia, Missouri, where he attended the University of Missouri. Ellis had 3,826 rushing yards in his NFL career and was inducted into the Packers Hall of Fame in 1994. Following his playing career, Ellis worked as a construction worker. Since retiring, he is part of the band "Big Mouth and the Power Tool Horns." Ellis and his band play locally and around the state. In his spare time he enjoys golfing, fishing and entertaining people. Ellis currently resides in De Pere, WI.

Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Green Bay serves people of all faiths within 16 counties in northeastern Wisconsin by providing services such as individual and family counseling, adoption, family strengthening, refugee and immigration services, and financial health counseling.

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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.

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