

2025 Bishop's Appeal Script

Narr: (31 sec.) Throughout our lifetime, we are graced with moments of great hope. It's a young person's joy with friends, it's a couple saying yes for better or worse, it's the birth of a child, and most importantly, it's the source of all hope: Jesus.

Through the Bishop's Appeal, we are Bringing Hope to the World.

Hope is found by caring for those in need and helping young people discover Jesus in our Catholic schools and parish religious education programs.

Narr: (18 sec.) At St. Sebastian Parish in Isaar, more than 40 kids are encountering Jesus through the parish Religious Education program. As the parish Religious Education Coordinator, Jessica Melchert is sharing the Gospel with young people and is spreading hope, one soul at a time.

Jessica: (7 sec.) My name is Jessica Melchert, and I'm a member of St. Sebastian's Parish in Isaar. So first and foremost, I'm a wife and a mother of three.

Jessica: (7 sec.) So about a year and a half ago, I was asked by our religious education coordinator who was looking to move on from the current position if I would be interested in coming in as a religious education coordinator.

And through the support of our other catechists and teachers and aides and families within our program, I've been able to say yes with their help and support. It's not just me running the show. It's truly done through the support of my other catechists that are there working with me.

Narr: (10 sec.) By working with the other catechists and Kately Javier from the Office of Faith Formation, Jessica can help more young people discover Jesus and the hope He brings.

Jessica: (30 sec.) Bringing hope to the world is hard when people don't know God's saving plan. So, through religious education, we talk a lot about God's plan, trusting in God, and one of those beautiful theological virtues that we have: faith, hope, and love. When we know God, we can love God, we can trust in His plan, and we have hope for a brighter future.

- Jessica: (20 sec.) I would not be able to do what I need to do to be a religious education coordinator without the support of the Office of the Evangelizing Catechesis and the Catholic schools and everything that the diocese does. We would not be able to have our faith formation programs.
- Jessica: (6 sec.) Thank you for bringing hope to the world through your gifts to the Bishop's Appeal.
- Narr: (16 sec.) Hope shines brightly in our Catholic schools, where teachers help students grow in both knowledge and faith.
- With guidance and resources from the diocesan office of Catholic schools, our teachers receive training in best practices that enrich our students' learning and faith journey.
- Narr: (11 sec.) Hope thrives in the diaconate ministry. More than 110 Deacons walk with parishioners on their faith journey in parishes throughout the 16 counties of northeastern WI.
- Narr: (7 sec.) Hope grows in our parishes as new leaders are formed thanks to the Missionary Leadership Institute.
- Narr: (7 sec.) Hope is found through the compassionate outreach of Catholic Charities. Their counselors are helping individuals and families navigate challenges like depression, anxiety, and marital struggles. They also accompany couples hoping to grow their families through adoption. Because of you, thousands of lives are touched by the hope of Christ's love.
- Bishop: (26 sec.) The Bible is packed with examples of hope. God parted the Red Sea, leading Moses and the Israelites to freedom. As a boy, David triumphed over Goliath. And, as Simon Peter felt unworthy, Jesus gently reassured him, saying, "Do not be afraid." In every situation, our hope remains steadfast in Jesus, who is with us always.
- Bishop: (28 sec.) More people are discovering Jesus thanks to your support of the Bishop's Appeal. Your generosity lights the way in our Catholic parishes, faith formation programs, and schools.

Please join me in Bringing Hope to the World by sharing your gift to the 2025 Bishop's Appeal. Thank you and may God bless you and your family abundantly. In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.