



## *Making a Difference*

February 2020

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As we enter the season of Lent 2020, we embark also on our annual Together We Serve appeal. It may be tempting to think sometimes that we as individuals have little power to make positive change in the world, but in fact, when we are united together in Christ, we can indeed make a great deal of difference.

That's what Together We Serve is all about. When we open our hearts to the Word of God, and ask the Holy Spirit to reveal to us how we may more faithfully put it into practice, we encounter these challenging questions, posed by St. Paul: "What do you have that you did not receive? And if you received it, why do you boast as if it were not a gift?" (1Corinthians 4:7)

All is God's gift. Everything good that we have and are comes from God. Sacred Scripture also shows us the purpose for which God bestows gifts on his children: "Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received." (1Peter 4:10) By our generous sharing of the gifts, talents and resources with which we are blessed, we participate in the mission of the Church and reach out in loving service to others.

During Lent, let us focus on living in a spirit of gratitude and expressing that gratitude through our actions. Remember that whatever we do, whatever we share, our actions are that much stronger when practised in community with our family and members of our parish. As you reflect on the example of Jesus and how best to address his call to serve others in charity, I ask that you consider the needs of the parish, the Archdiocese, our institutions and the community in general, and to respond generously. Your gifts through Together We Serve enable us to make a greater difference as a family than we ever could as individuals.

You may be providing help and creating hope for women and children escaping domestic violence. You may be helping our brothers and sisters in The Diocese of Mackenzie-Fort Smith, with which our Archdiocese is twinned in a relationship of mutual sharing. You may be helping to form a new priest who will go on to serve your family. You may be giving a young woman the education she needs to teach our precious faith or to serve as a chaplain or parish pastoral assistant. You may be helping our Holy Father Pope Francis assist refugees on the island of Lesbos, or supporting our retired priests here in the Archdiocese. You may never know the precise difference you have made, but you will know that it mattered to someone.

I am extremely grateful for the continuing support you have shown through your gifts to Together We Serve. As St. Teresa of Calcutta said, "Not all of us can do great things. But we can do small things with great love."

May God continue to bless you and your families with his abundant grace and mercy.

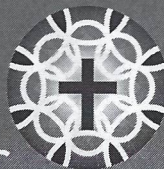
Yours sincerely in Christ,

✠Richard W. Smith  
Archbishop of Edmonton  
February 2020



# THANK YOU

together  
we serve



# CATHOLICS MAKING A DIFFERENCE

## Here is how your gifts made a difference in 2019:

### Catholic Social Services \$294,302

CSS provides compassionate care for the developmentally and physically disabled, as well as guidance, refuge, and counselling to families in need, women escaping domestic violence or facing a crisis pregnancy, people struggling with substance abuse or living with HIV/AIDS, and newcomers to Canada.

### Development and Peace - Caritas Canada \$231,238

The official development organization of the Catholic Church in Canada, D&P works in partnership with local organizations in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Middle East. Our programs help improve living conditions for some of the poorest of our global brothers and sisters.

### Diocese of Mackenzie - Fort Smith \$126,129

Our twin diocese is home to about 28,000 Catholics across the NWT, so distances are great, and resources few. Our donations help build the spiritual health of the community: restoring churches, training leaders, and operating programs that bring people and communities together.

### Evangelization of Peoples \$84,086

Mission dioceses around the world receive regular annual assistance through the Pontifical Missions Societies. Our donations support catechetical programs, seminaries, church and chapel construction, health care, education, communication and transportation needs.

### Needs of the Church in Canada \$105,108

Our contributions help support the work of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops in national and international areas of pastoral activity, including social justice, ecumenical and interfaith relations, collaboration with Indigenous Peoples, life and family issues, liturgy, and catechesis.

### Needs of the Church in the Holy Land \$126,129

Our gifts help the Holy Land Commissariat to protect and maintain holy places and shrines, and to support the shrinking number of Christians in the Holy Land through pastoral work, Catholic schools, housing, health care, and social assistance.

### Newman Theological College \$126,129

Through its certificate, undergraduate and graduate programs, Newman prepares lay persons and ordained ministers for service and leadership in the Catholic Church. Unlike virtually all Canadian colleges, Newman receives no public funding, relying solely on tuition and donations.

### The Pope's Pastoral Works \$84,086

The mission, rooted in the love and compassion of Christ, is to provide financial help in the name of the Pope and on behalf of Catholics everywhere. Each year the office offers relief to victims of natural disasters, violent conflict, and other crises.

### St. Joseph Priests' Foundation of Edmonton \$84,086

The Foundation provides a modest retirement income and other assistance as required to ensure the dignified care of archdiocesan priests when they retire or can no longer serve the People of God.

### St. Joseph Seminary \$126,129

The Seminary has the mission of training current and future diocesan priests for Western Canada and beyond. These men will serve our parishes through their preaching and example, their celebration of the sacraments, and their leadership.

### St. Joseph's College Campus Ministry \$126,129

Campus Ministry provides a friendly, nurturing place for students, faculty and staff at the University of Alberta. Our ministry includes spiritual counselling, peer support, worship services, reflection and discussion groups, and interfaith and volunteer activities.

**Distributed to Charities** ..... **\$1,513,551**

**Parish Share rebates** ..... **\$141,551**

**Administration** ..... **\$206,592**

**Total Raised** ..... **\$1,861,694**

## Our 2020 Goal: \$2 million