



OFFICE OF THE ARCHBISHOP

March 1, 2017

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The Word of God is central to our lives as Christians. Pope Francis tell us very clearly: "These are the two conditions in order to follow Jesus: to listen to the word of God, and to put it into practice. This is the Christian life – nothing more. Simple, simple." (Homily at Daily Mass, September 23, 2014)

This "simple" idea inspires the theme of this year's Together We Serve appeal, *Live the Word*. The Lord himself teaches us that the disciple is one who hears and practices his teaching, who, in other words, lives the Word of God. The Gospel is only the printed word until it transforms our day-to-day living.

By virtue of our baptism, we are missionary disciples of Jesus Christ, endowed with many gifts and talents for the service of the Gospel. In allowing our hearts to be transformed by encountering Jesus, we become more deeply missionary, oriented toward serving others.

"If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, and one of you says to them, 'Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill,' and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead." (James 2:15-17)

As we open our hearts to the Word of God, let us ask the Holy Spirit to reveal to us how we may more faithfully put it into practice. "Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received." (1 Peter 4:10) This means asking ourselves simple yet challenging questions. How is the Lord calling me to greater generosity? What more is the Lord asking of me? How am I using the gift of financial resources in the service of others?

Together We Serve is one way we can collectively live the Word of God. Together we can bring the Gospel message to those on the peripheries, through our gifts to Catholic Social Services, Development & Peace, Evangelization of Nations, Needs of the Church in the Holy Land, our northern twin diocese (Mackenzie-Fort Smith), and the Pope's Pastoral Works. Together we can also help serve those who answer the call to ministry, those who are the voice of the Church in our Canadian society, and those who have dedicated their lives to the service of others, through our support of St. Joseph Seminary, St. Joseph's College, Newman Theological College, the Needs of the Canadian Church, and St. Joseph Priest's Foundation of Edmonton.

God provides generously. Our gifts are to be shared for the good of all and the service of others. Together this Lent, let us share generously in mercy and love. Together, let us Live the Word.

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Rev. Richard W. Smith  
Archbishop of Edmonton

# Live the Word

caedm.ca/WeServe



together  
**we serve**  
Catholics Making a Difference

## THANK YOU

Here is how **your gifts** made a difference in 2016.

<b>Catholic Social Services</b>	<b>\$330,760</b>
<b>Development &amp; Peace - Caritas Canada</b>	<b>\$259,885</b>
<b>Diocese of Mackenzie - Fort Smith</b>	<b>\$141,755</b>
<b>Evangelization of Nations</b>	<b>\$94,505</b>
<b>Needs of the Church in Canada</b>	<b>\$118,129</b>
<b>Needs of the Church in the Holy Land</b>	<b>\$141,755</b>
<b>Newman Theological College</b>	<b>\$141,755</b>
<b>Pope's Pastoral Works</b>	<b>\$94,505</b>
<b>St. Joseph Priests' Foundation of Edmonton</b>	<b>\$94,505</b>
<b>St. Joseph Seminary</b>	<b>\$141,755</b>
<b>St. Joseph's College, University of Alberta</b>	<b>\$141,755</b>
<b>Total Distributed to Charities</b>	<b>\$1,701,064</b>
<b>Parish Share Program</b>	<b>\$136,380</b>
<b>Administration</b>	<b>\$184,608</b>
<b>2016 Goal</b>	<b>Total Raised</b>
<b>\$2,000,000</b>	<b>\$2,022,052</b>

**Catholic Social Services** 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** 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** 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 Nations** Mission dioceses around the world, including those in Northern Canada, 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** 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 Aboriginal Peoples, life and family issues, liturgy, and catechesis.

**Needs of the Church in the Holy Land** 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** 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.

**Pope's Pastoral Works** 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 Seminary** 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 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.

**St. Joseph Priests' Foundation of Edmonton** 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.