

OFFICE OF THE ARCHBISHOP

Baptized and Sent

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As we enter the season of Lent 2019, we embark also on our annual Together We Serve appeal. This year, I invite you to reflect on the theme "Baptized and Sent," a reminder that with Baptism, each of us is given a mission to serve others.

Pope Francis puts it this way: "Every man and woman is a mission; that is the reason for our life on this earth." (*Evangelii Gaudium*, 273). In other words, each of us is sent "into the world" in service so that it may be transformed with the power of the Gospel of our Lord. But just what is the Lord asking of us?

During Lent, we focus on three particular ways of growing in our faith so that we might better answer that question and thus fulfill our baptismal mission: Prayer, Fasting and Almsgiving (Charity). All these things are that much stronger when practised in community with our family and members of our parish.

One way we can act on our mission as a community of believers is by supporting Together We Serve, our annual outreach of charity to many who need our help. I ask everyone, as we heed the call to embrace our Baptism, to 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.

Through Catholic Social Services, you may be providing help and creating hope for women and children escaping domestic violence. Through Caritas Canada – Development and Peace, you might be helping people in Haiti recover and rebuild after a devastating earthquake. Through the Pope's Pastoral Works, you may be helping the Holy Father respond to global emergencies. You may be helping to spread the light of Christ far and wide through the Evangelization of Nations, Needs of the Church in the Holy Land, or our northern twin Diocese of Mackenzie-Fort Smith.

Through St. Joseph Seminary, you may be helping to form a new priest who will go on to serve your family. Through Newman Theological College, 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. Your gifts will also help our bishops in their ministry to the dioceses of Canada and support our retired priests here in the Archdiocese. And if your parish exceeds its goal for Together We Serve, any extra funds are returned to your parish for specific local projects.

I am grateful for the support you have shown through your gifts to Together We Serve. You may never know the precise difference you have made, but you will know that it mattered to someone. Like the ripples in the baptismal water, the effects of your generosity reach ever outward.

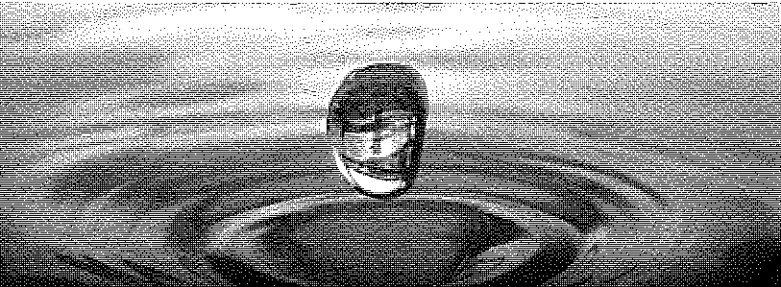
Let us together, as one family in Christ, share joyfully in our baptismal mission to serve. May God continue to bless you with His abundant mercy.

Yours sincerely in Christ,

✠Richard W. Smith
Archbishop of Edmonton
January 2019

THANK YOU

Here is how **your** gifts made a difference in 2018.



**together
we serve**

Catholics Making a Difference

Catholic Social Services

\$313,333

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

\$246,190

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

\$134,286

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

\$89,523

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

\$111,904

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

\$134,286

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

\$134,286

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

\$89,523

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

\$89,523

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

\$134,286

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

\$134,286

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.....\$1,611,426

Parish Share rebates to parishes.....\$136,876

Administration.....\$176,982 (8.8%)

Total Raised.....\$1,925,284

caedm.ca/WeServe