

# LIVING THE GOSPEL

... by providing for those in need.

## 2017 Parish Campaign



Mr. John H. Sample  
990 Roselawn Ave.  
Toronto, ON M6B 1C1

 **ShareLife**  
[www.sharelife.org](http://www.sharelife.org)

March 2017

Dear Mr. Donor,

In the parable of the Good Samaritan, Jesus is asked by a lawyer 'who is my neighbour.' As our Lord tells the story of the man who was helped by a stranger, he asks 'who do you think was the neighbour to the man who fell into the hands of robbers.' When the lawyer replies 'the man who showed mercy toward him,' Jesus replied 'go and do the same.'

In our daily lives, we are called as a Catholic community to show mercy toward those who need our help. Sometimes, these individuals are visible to us – the homeless man, the child in the developing world who yearns for a daily meal, the individual suffering from addiction to alcohol or drugs. But many times, they are not – the family struggling with the sudden death of a loved one, the single mother raising her child without family support, or the refugee family starting anew in Canada after fleeing their homeland where they faced persecution due to their religious beliefs. Some of these individuals might be a fellow parishioner, a neighbour, or even a family member. We are fortunate to have a network of agencies that are able to provide care and compassion in an environment that is infused with the values of our faith. These agencies, supported by ShareLife, are bringing the hands of Christ to those who turn to them for help on a daily basis.

We have a long history of putting our faith into action. From the time of the founding of the archdiocese in 1841, when Bishop Michael Power helped to care for Irish immigrants who had escaped the great famine, to the founding of ShareLife by Archbishop Pocock in 1976, the Archdiocese of Toronto has exhibited our love for neighbour in many different ways. Agencies such as the Good Shepherd Centre, Providence Healthcare, St. Elizabeth Healthcare, and Covenant House were established in Toronto with the encouragement of the Catholic Church. Our parishes offer food banks, out of the cold programs, and now, with ShareLife funding, six parishes will train volunteers to participate in a support program for isolated seniors. As we celebrate our 175th anniversary as a Diocese, we continue to be a faith that acts, bringing our values to the forefront without any fanfare, serving and caring for one another as Jesus taught us to do. I invite you to join me in making a sacrificial gift to the 2017 ShareLife campaign.

**YES** I would like to live the Gospel values in the community through ShareLife agencies. I am enclosing my gift of:

Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

consisting of:  Post-dated cheques  Cash (gift in parish)  Cheque

Please make cheques payable to ShareLife - (name of parish)

Your tax receipt will be issued by the parish at year end.

Charitable Registration No. 13063 2474 RR0001

 **ShareLife**

**LIVING THE GOSPEL**

Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish  
3 Combermere Drive  
Toronto ON M3A 2W4

**Mr. John H. Sample**  
**990 Roselawn Ave.**  
**Toronto, ON M6B 1C1**

**Important:** Please return your donation, along with this form, in the envelope provided. Your parish name and address must show through the window. Duplicate Mailing? Please contact the parish listed on this form.

You can also donate securely online at [www.sharelife.org](http://www.sharelife.org)  
Interested in making a gift of publicly traded securities? Please contact the ShareLife office at 416-934-3411 or 1-800-263-2595.

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www.sharelife.org



'Living the Gospel by providing for those in need' is the mission statement of ShareLife. Last year, in over 20 languages, these agencies delivered much needed programs and services to the greater community, regardless of religious affiliation, providing support and offering hope in situations where there was despair. In addition, ShareLife funding provided for the education of our priests and deacons, supported youth programs initiated through the Office of Catholic Youth, and provided food for children in the developing world, helped to evangelize the faith, and supported social justice initiatives through Development and Peace, Canadian Food for Children, and the Pastoral Mission Fund.

One of the core components of our archdiocesan Pastoral Plan is Catholic Outreach in justice and love. Many of us face the demands of our work and family life, and find little time to be able to actively participate in some of the outreach initiatives that our parishes and the greater community offer. This is where our ShareLife agencies come in, offering programs that demonstrate our commitment to fulfill the Gospel message to 'love one another as I have loved you.' In his apostolic exhortation *Evangelii Gaudium*, Pope Francis notes that 'none of us can think that we are exempt from concern for the poor.' Through ShareLife, we collectively help to provide the resources our agencies need to make a difference in the lives of the marginalized in our society and around the world.

This year we are allocating \$13.685 million toward the work of ShareLife agencies. Our generosity will help to establish the aforementioned seniors program in Peel Region and Simcoe County, help our agencies to share services in human resources, accounting, and information technology, and support programs at the John Paul the Great Centre in North York, where children and seniors are able to access community programs, and those suffering from addictions are able to seek help to overcome their issues. Over the past two years, recognizing the increased demand for services our agencies face, ShareLife has allocated over \$1.2 million new dollars to support their efforts; these funds are primarily raised through our annual parish campaign.

Collectively, our archdiocese expresses our concern for the poor through ShareLife agencies, and our contributions will help to provide resources to bring the words of the Gospel to life through their work. As you contemplate the blessings that you may have, please consider a contribution to ShareLife to the best of your ability to support the work of our agencies as they provide front line services to those in need across the greater community and around the world.

As we reflect on the invitation Jesus left us to 'go and do the same,' let us be mindful of the message that the parable of the Good Samaritan gave us to love our neighbour, and care for one another as we would ask others to do for us.

Yours sincerely in the Lord,



Thomas Cardinal Collins  
Archbishop of Toronto

*The Catholic community and its partners responding generously with justice and love.*

1155 Yonge Street, Toronto, Ontario M4T 1W2 | 416.934.3411 or 1.800.263.2595  
 /ShareLifeCan  @ShareLifeCan  www.workingwonders.ca

## THE ARCHBISHOP PHILIP POCOCK SOCIETY

Archbishop Philip Pocock served as the 7th Archbishop of Toronto from 1971 to 1978. In 1976, Archbishop Pocock made a courageous decision to establish an organization that respects life at all stages. Now his legacy lives on through the work being done with the help of ShareLife agencies.



Today, ShareLife funds a large network of Catholic agencies and grant recipients providing services to many people locally and countless more around the world. In 2009, the Archbishop Philip Pocock Society was established to recognize and thank those who make a monthly commitment to support ShareLife agencies.

### As a Society member you will receive:

- Two updates per year – our spring newsletter and fall annual report
- A bookmark commemorating the life of Archbishop Pocock
- Invitations to participate in ShareLife appreciation events

Members of the Pocock Society have the opportunity to make a monthly gift by credit card, online ([www.sharelife.org](http://www.sharelife.org)) or through post-dated cheques at your parish. Become a monthly donor today and live the Gospel values all year long in the lives of those less fortunate!

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