



February 2018

Dear Mr. Donor,

If we want to help change history and promote real development, we need to hear the cry of the poor and commit ourselves to ending their marginalization

- Pope Francis, Message for the First World day of the Poor

As a Catholic community, we are called to embody a faith that acts. In the Archdiocese of Toronto, we have responded to this call in many different ways during our 175-year history. Our first Bishop, Michael Power, died from typhus while serving the needs of Irish immigrants who had escaped the Great Famine. Ten years later, Bishop de Charbonnel invited the Sisters of St. Joseph to establish the Houses of Providence, which continue to serve our community today as Providence Healthcare. There are many essential services in our archdiocese – Covenant House, St. Michael's Hospital, Scarborough General Hospital, and the Good Shepherd Centre – that trace their origins to the Catholic Church or religious orders.

We also demonstrate our commitment to the common good through special collections that support many important programs in our archdiocese and across the world. Our parishioners respond generously to requests to support humanitarian relief and the needs of the Church **locally, nationally and internationally.**

This is in addition to the many acts of outreach that take place in our parishes, such as food pantries or Out of the Cold programs, where parishioners heed the **Holy Father's call to hear the cry of the poor.** Generations of the faithful, through their commitment to Catholic charities, have been quietly making our communities more caring and compassionate. They have asked for nothing in return, yet we nevertheless owe them a debt of gratitude.

In 1976, Archbishop Pocock established the ShareLife campaign in the Archdiocese of Toronto as a way to support the work of Catholic agencies that serve the greater community. Today, **more than forty agencies receive funding** through our annual appeal, providing services to families in crisis, people with special needs, elderly people, children and youth, and immigrants and refugees. These agencies also help people who are marginalized, develop social justice projects in the greater world, provide food for children in developing countries, and **support the formation of priests and deacons who will to serve our parishes into the future.** Our support for the ShareLife

campaign is more than a collection of funds; it is how we bring the hands of Christ to those in need both here and around the world.

The generosity of our parishioners resulted in a successful 2017 ShareLife campaign – in fact, we received the **highest parish campaign result in our history**. However, despite our campaign success, we experienced a deficit due to agency allocations increasing over the past two years. Our campaign is growing, but so are the needs in our community and the resources our agencies require to meet them.

In 2018, we have set **a goal of \$13.6 million for our parish campaign**, an increase of almost \$1 million over our 2017 result. Achieving our campaign goal this year will allow for the expansion of existing services, as well the development of new programs to serve those who turn to our agencies for help. Our new seniors program, which provides volunteers to assist those living independently in their later years, is one example of an initiative that has been **developed through a partnership** between our parish communities and our Catholic Family Services agencies. Additional resources are needed to serve more people over the next few years.

I believe our overall campaign goal can be met, **but only with your help**. I invite you to join me in making a sacrificial gift to the 2018 ShareLife campaign. Together we can support the needs of those who are marginalized in our communities, helping us “live the Gospel by providing for those in need.”

As you contemplate the blessings you may have, **please consider a contribution to ShareLife to the best of your ability**. May God bless you for your generosity.

Yours sincerely in the Lord,

+ Thomas Card. Collins

Thomas Cardinal Collins
Archbishop of Toronto