



February, 2019

Dear brothers and sisters:

After Jesus recounts the parable of the Good Samaritan, he asks which of the three men who encountered the robbery victim was his neighbour. When his listeners answer, “The man who showed mercy on him,” Jesus replies, “Go and do the same.”

We too come across people who need our help. Some may be apparent, like the homeless person seeking a meal, while there are others whose needs are less visible – the family grieving the loss of a parent, the young mother raising her newborn alone, or the individual suffering from addiction.

The 177-year history of the Archdiocese of Toronto has been shaped by the ways we have extended the message of this parable to the greater community:

- Our first Bishop, Michael Power, died from typhus while serving the needs of Irish immigrants who had escaped the Great Famine.
- Many of our communities’ venerable institutions of compassionate care trace their roots to the Catholic Church and its religious orders – Providence Healthcare, Covenant House, St. Michael’s Hospital, St. Joseph’s Health Centre, and the Good Shepherd Centre, among others.
- When a great need occurs, our parishioners mobilize through special collections that fund humanitarian relief internationally and important programs locally.

These agencies help families in crisis, people with special needs, elderly people, children and youth, and immigrants and refugees. They also 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 one day minister in our parishes.

ShareLife is more than a collection of funds; it is **how we bring the hands of Christ to those in need**. Through ShareLife, we testify to God’s love for us, as we show mercy to our neighbour.

The needs of our brothers and sisters in Christ are greater than ever before. In order for our agencies to continue their vital work, it is crucial we meet our **parish campaign goal of \$13.8 million**.

By meeting this goal, we will enable our agencies to continue offering walk-in counselling to those facing mental health issues. We will provide new funding to help victims of domestic violence. We will ensure isolated seniors are not forgotten. By supporting these people and countless others, we fulfill ShareLife’s mission to “live the Gospel by providing for those in need.”

Our goal can be met, but **only with your help**. As you contemplate the gifts God has entrusted to you, **please join me in giving to ShareLife to the best of your ability**.

May God bless you for your generosity,

Sincerely

+ Thomas Card. Collins

Thomas Collins

Archbishop of Toronto

P.S. In 2019, ShareLife will allocate over \$450,000 to support new programs in our communities. Our efforts to “go and do the same” will help make these and many other services possible. Thank you for considering a gift to ShareLife this year.

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