



“So then, whenever we have an opportunity, let us work for the good of all, and especially for those of the family of faith.” Galatians 6:10

My brothers and sisters in Christ,

I am so very grateful for the continuing support of parishioners across the Archdiocese of Toronto in response to their parish’s Family of Faith campaign.

2020 was a particularly difficult year as we all struggled with the Covid-19 pandemic. With the new year upon us, I look forward in hope and faith that, with God’s abundant mercy, our family of faith will emerge with a renewed spirit in service to our Lord, Jesus Christ.

Your participation in the Family of Faith campaign and that of so many faithful continues to be a source of inspiration to me.

Sincerely in Christ,

Thomas Card. Collins

Cardinal Thomas Collins

Archbishop of Toronto

Campaign Funds Livestreaming

Parishes across the Archdiocese of Toronto have adapted to many of the unfortunate consequences of the Covid-19 pandemic. Since last March, parishioners have had limited access to churches due to either full pandemic ‘lockdowns’ or greatly reduced seating capacities.

Many parishes have initiated or expanded their ‘livestreaming’ capabilities. While they are no replacement for the in-person celebration of the Eucharist, the livestreaming of Mass and other parish gatherings has provided a measure of spiritual sustenance during trying times. Many parishes have also used their livestreaming capabilities to deliver programs including sacramental preparation, bible studies and community meetings.

At the most basic level, livestreaming can be done with a smartphone via readily available social media tools like Facebook and YouTube. However, the production is often less than satisfactory and a quality transmission, without interruption, can be difficult to achieve.

Reliable livestreaming requires specialized equipment—quality cameras, microphones, cabling, switches, related equipment and sufficient internet bandwidth.

Father Francisco Fernandez Siles is Pastor of St. John the Evangelist Parish in Whitby. He said, “Livestreaming Mass, of course, can never replace the physical gathering together as the people of God to celebrate the Eucharist. However, during the pandemic our parish’s livestreamed Masses have provided a good measure of spiritual strength and sustenance during these difficult times.”

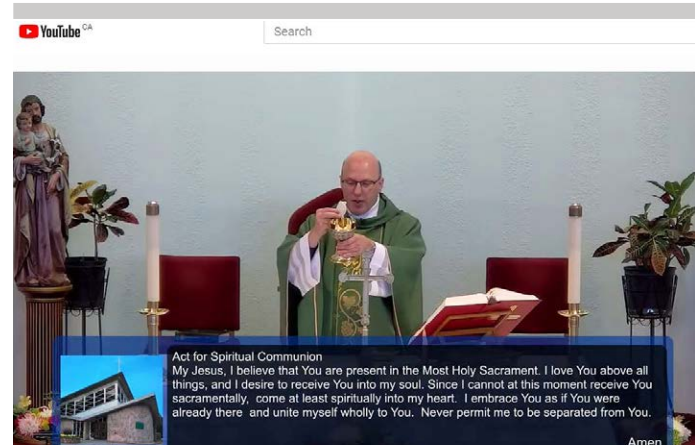
At the start of the pandemic, many parishes were already well-equipped and able to livestream from the church. For others the capacity was developed quickly.

In January, 2021, Jim Milway, Chancellor of Temporal Affairs, announced that the Family of Faith campaign would provide financial assistance to parishes that wanted to develop their livestreaming capacity but lacked the financial resources to do so.

Parishes can receive up to \$10,000 for new livestreaming equipment or equipment that was previously installed during the pandemic. Milway says the funding from the Family of Faith campaign is consistent with the campaign’s goal of promoting a ‘Catholic Voice in the Public Square.’ “The campaign had already funded ten faith sharing campuses—or hubs—toward this goal,” and he said, “The support for livestreaming at more parishes is a natural extension of that effort.”

Father Victor Amole is Pastor of St. Dunstan’s Parish in Scarborough. He said that he’s grateful for the funding and

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Livestreaming

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notes, "It will go a long way in helping us at Saint Dunstan and support us in our drive for further evangelization."

All pastors were notified of the program in early January 2021. At the time of writing, more than a dozen parishes had received more than \$70,000 of the \$200,000 available from the Family of Faith campaign's livestreaming subsidy initiative. The program is still accepting applications from qualifying parishes.

Campaign Update

Most donations to the Family of Faith campaign were made via five-year pledges. Over time, the value of some pledges has changed. That's because parishioners move away from the archdiocese, pass away or financial circumstances change. The current total pledged or paid is approximately \$156 million. Of this amount, more than \$139 million has been received to date.

Under the campaign's sharing formula, once a parish reaches its goal, it receives 75% of funds received above that goal. Over 120 parishes have exceeded their parish goal. Over \$52.3 million has been flowed to individual parish accounts to implement parish 'case statement'* priorities. To date, parishes have spent over \$28 million on priorities, including parish debt repayment.

**A case statement is the description of how a parish plans to spend its share of funds. These plans were outlined in the parish's campaign brochure shared with all parishioners at the outset of the parish's campaign.*

Parish Campaign Matters

Parishioners and pastors from across the archdiocese often have questions about the Family of Faith campaign. Here are some answers to questions that John Ecker, Director, Family of Faith campaign & Special Projects has been receiving.

1) When will my pledge be completed? How do I update my address or payment information?

Most parishioners participated in the campaign over five years for a total of 60 monthly payments. Our Donations Processing Centre keeps will not automatically continue to deduct payments once a pledge has been completed. To change your address, update your payment information or address any questions about your pledge, call 416.934.3400 x555. The office can also be contacted via email at campaign@archtoronto.org.

2) When will the work promised in my parish's 'case statement' be completed?

Pastors are asked to keep his parishioners informed about their parish campaigns via bulletin and pulpit announcements. The campaign office provides the parish with reporting tools (signage, draft bulletin messages, pulpit announcements, etc.). Periodic financial progress reports are also provided to pastors. They are encouraged to publish their results with parishioners.

3) How can a parish case be changed, if needed?

Over time, a parish's needs may change. In cases when the pastor wishes to redirect his parish's Family of Faith campaign proceeds for a different use or add a new element, the pastor must consult with parishioners (eg. Finance Council, Pastoral Council or other committees as appropriate) and receive

permission from his Regional Bishop and the Chancellor of Temporal Affairs. Pastors who may be considering changes to their case are encouraged to first connect with John Ecker.

If have additional questions or concerns, please contact John Ecker, Director of the Family of Faith Campaign & Special Projects (contact information below).

An Invitation to Continue Your Commitment

Most donors supported the campaign via regular monthly instalments, over five years.

When your pledge is completed, please consider whether you have the capacity to extend your support to other worthy initiatives, such as:

- Your parish's building, maintenance or other capital fund*
- ShareLife
- St. Augustine's Seminary
- St. Michael's Choir School Rebuilding Project
- Shepherd's Trust

*You can support your parish directly on most parish websites. Just click on the "Donate Now" button.

For other initiatives, please don't hesitate to reach out to John Ecker to hear more.

Family of Faith Campaign

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