



“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,

Thank you for supporting your parish’s Family of Faith campaign.

The Archdiocese of Toronto’s Pastoral Plan is a milestone on our journey together, asking us to grow deeper in our relationship with Jesus Christ and following the Gospel message.

The purpose of the Family of Faith campaign is to support those parts of the Pastoral Plan that require money. I am grateful to see so many parishes implementing the objectives for which you have given so generously.

As we move forward as a Catholic family, I invite you to continue to grow as stewards of the gifts we have received from God and to share them wisely in service to the Lord Jesus Christ and others.

Wishing you God’s blessings, with gratitude for all of your support.

Sincerely in Christ,

† Thomas Card. Collins

Cardinal Thomas Collins

Campaign Update

When the Family of Faith campaign was launched the goal was to raise \$105 million for parishes and archdiocesan-wide projects in support of the Archdiocese of Toronto’s Pastoral Plan. Parishioners from across the archdiocese responded with great generosity. Total pledges and donations surpassed \$170 million.

As projected at the outset of the campaign, over time, some pledges have not been completed. This is largely due to changed circumstances for donors, moving away from the archdiocese or death. As of the fall of 2018, the total value of donations and outstanding pledges stood at just under \$167 million. The archdiocese and parishes continue to move ahead with promised implementation of projects.

Pastors are encouraged to keep their parishioners informed of how their parishes are moving forward with plans. To date, over \$30 million has been transferred to parish Family of Faith accounts and debt repayment.

The full plan for the Family of Faith campaign ‘case statement’ is available at www.ourfamilyoffaith.ca.

Deep Stewardship

Deep stewardship underpins the Archdiocese of Toronto Pastoral Plan. It was also built into the Family of Faith case statement by allocating \$500K to “support sacramental and adult faith formation programs that inform, train, and educate Catholic leaders in our family of faith. These funds will help us

hire staff and develop resource material for this important element of our Pastoral Plan.”

In its first year, with Family of Faith funding of \$200K, the Office of Formation for Discipleship carried out several activities to begin embedding deep stewardship in our parishes:

- A Commission to oversee the implementation;
- Engaging an external expert to assist in embarking on the process;
- Supporting 8 parishes to serve as pilots;
- Participation in an international conference on stewardship to collect best practices;
- Facilitated formation opportunities for clergy and lay leaders.

Support from the Family of Faith campaign is yielding success. Under the guidance of the pastor, each pilot parish formed a stewardship leadership team and was then assisted with creating

Continued on Page 2



Leanne Kloppenborg speaks with her pastor, Fr. Prasanth, at the first formation meeting for the stewardship pilot parishes.

Campaign Update

continued from page 1

individualized stewardship plans.

Leanne Kloppenborg, a member of one of the parish leadership teams remarked, "I am so grateful that our parish was chosen to participate in the pilot. We have been encouraged to learn that we do some things well, and challenged to build on our welcoming and engagement.

In 2019, campaign funding of \$200K will fund a staff position to support the initiative, run workshops and meetings, and produce materials for activities throughout the archdiocese.

Campus Chaplaincies

From the Family of Faith campaign case statement: "One of the key themes of the Archdiocese of Toronto's Pastoral Plan is to 'engage families, especially our young people.' At this crucial stage of personal and spiritual development, the Church needs to be a point of engagement and friendship for young adults discerning important life choices."

...We will also invest \$2.5 million over ten years (\$250K annually) to maintain our current complement of campus chaplaincy resources, assisting the archdiocese with overall funding of these vital programs"

With help from the Family of Faith campaign, the archdiocese has invested in five new chaplaincies. They are attached to University of Toronto Scarborough and Centennial College (St Barnabas parish), University of Ontario Institute



of Technology and Durham College (St Joseph the Worker, Oshawa), and the Chinese students chaplaincy across all Toronto area universities. In 2019 \$297K from the Family of Faith campaign will help fund these chaplaincies and their coordination.

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd in our Schools

As kindergarten students began school last fall, many were visited by a Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Catechist as a part of a new initiative funded by the Family of Faith campaign.

Catechist Annie Flaherty has already been visiting schools, running a total of 146 sessions since the project's launch in October, 2018. "I love my job and the opportunity it gives me to help proclaim the Gospel message to the youngsters."

Anne Cassidy is a kindergarten teacher at St. Denis elementary school in Toronto. "Every other Monday, our classroom transforms into an atrium—a space set aside for prayer, where the children gather and absorb the most essential proclamations of the Christian faith," said Cassidy.

"This program" Cassidy said, "provides the children the opportunity to grow in the

love and knowledge of God." According to Cassidy, at the end of a session, one little boy in kindergarten exclaimed, "I prayed while I was walking back from the light." Another child asked his teachers, "If Jesus' spirit rises, does ours rise too?" One little girl remarked, "I know that God is not beside me, but he is always in my heart."

Funding from the Family of Faith campaign is enabling our littlest ones to experience prayer in its many forms during full-day Kindergarten within the Catholic schools of the archdiocese. Flaherty said, "Thanks to the Family of Faith campaign, we have been able to support the cost of handmade catechetical materials, which will live in several kindergarten classrooms throughout the year." These materials assist educators in cultivating the gift of wonder as students reflect on so many gospel stories, including the parable



of the Good Shepherd, the parable of the mustard seed, and the birth of Jesus using tactile tools and resources that are suited for three to six year old children.



Young Adult Ministry

From the Family of Faith campaign case statement "...Our archdiocesan Office of Catholic Youth has identified young adult ministry as a priority group currently underserved and in need of specialized programming. We will invest \$750,000 over a ten year period to develop programs and ensure staff resources to enhance our outreach to this very important age group."



The campaign has helped fund young adult ministry the eastern region, through a program called Spiritus Via and in the western pastoral region through Spiritus Vitae. To better serve young adults, the eastern pastoral region is moving from four part-time staff positions to one full-time position in the western region, the ministry will continue to be served through four part-time staff positions. The approved allocation for 2019 is \$70K.

Deep Stewardship and Vibrant Parishes

Joy in life comes from sharing our time and talents creatively and fruitfully for the glory of God and in service of neighbour, and from celebrating the differing gifts of those around us.

This is the spirit of deep stewardship, the fruit of which are vibrant parishes, which are joyful to live in and attractive to others. Just as the star guided the wise men to Christ, the witness of a dynamic parish can lead people who have drifted away to rediscover the faith and to return home to a vibrant community.

From the Archdiocese of Toronto Pastoral Plan

"As individuals and as a parish community, we are all called to be faithful stewards of the many gifts that God has entrusted to us. Each of us needs to be fully engaged as a disciple of Jesus, grateful for what we have received from God, and eager to share it creatively and responsibly."



Cardinal Collins explains deep stewardship:

<https://youtu.be/11Za3pmsZXk>

Family of Faith Campaign Loans for Parishes

Some archdiocesan parishes face challenges to maintain their facilities and keep them safe and secure. The Family of Faith campaign case statement included a \$10 million fund to assist parishes with buildings requiring significant capital improvements. There is particular concern for heritage churches and churches that face extraordinary costs to meet new accessibility standards.

Several parishes recently received approval for funding through non-interest bearing loans. In keeping with the terms of the loan program, all of the following parishes have limited financial means to carry out the work that is required.

St Clare's Parish, Toronto: A loan of up to \$500K is being provided to the parish to address issues identified in the church's building condition report. The parish's building committee developed a phased plan to address the shortcomings. Repairs to the building's mechanical systems and sidewalks will be paid for through the loan.

St Jude's Parish, Weston: The parish has major work required according to a building condition report on the church. A loan of \$376K will address asbestos removal, floor replacement, pew refurbishment and interior painting.

St Anselm's Parish, Toronto: The parish is undertaking major repairs to several elements of the building. The church spire became severely degraded over time and now requires significant work. A loan of \$550.7K will cover the cost of repairing and restoring the spire and addressing other building fabric and water damage issues.

St Martin de Porres Parish, Scarborough: The church required a significant investment of \$6.9 million to rebuild the church and rectory. The parish is now welcoming back parishioners who were displaced and a \$1 million loan will help in those efforts.

Holy Name Parish, Toronto: The parish has had to replace its church roof, a loan of \$528K will help the parish pay for this extraordinary cost.

Holy Angels Parish, Etobicoke: The parish experienced extraordinary costs to replace its pitched roof, repair water damage and improve insulation. The parish will receive a loan of \$253K toward an overall project cost of \$699.3K.

St Dunstan Parish, Scarborough: The parish needs to carry out renovations for its entrance, an accessibility ramp and a retaining wall planter. A loan of \$33K will assist the parish to proceed with this necessary work.

Pledge Payment News

The vast majority of donors to the Family of Faith campaign made their commitments to the campaign in the form of a pledge, payable over time. Most donors chose to make their payments via credit card, followed by cheque or debit. In response to feedback from donors, the campaign has implemented two enhancements to make payments more convenient.

Direct Payments Via Bank Account

Many donors are fulfilling their pledges via cheque. We are now able to give donors an option that makes payments much easier for them and less costly for us to administer. We have made arrangements with the five major banks (see box) for donors to make pledge payments just as they already do with utilities, insurance companies, vendors and other charities.

As the illustration indicates, making a pledge payment is as “easy as 1-2-3.”

Donors can easily set up a schedule of regular or monthly contributions to their Family of Faith campaign payments.

If a donor needs help, just contact our Donations Processing Centre weekdays between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. at 416.934.3400 x555.

Credit Cards

We are now participating in a program that works with Visa, MasterCard and American Express credit cards issued by the five major Canadian banks. This program facilitates the automatic updating of credit card information when cards expire or about to expire.

The program provides convenience for cardholders and cost-savings for the campaign. If a donor does not want to continue with their scheduled payments, as per the pledge they made at the outset of their participation in the Family of Faith campaign, the campaign’s Donations Processing Centre will be pleased to assist via email at campaign@archtoronto.org and by phone at 416.934.3400 x555.

Payments Now Easy as 1-2-3

It’s easier than ever to meet your commitment to your Family of Faith parish campaign.

You can now make your payments using online or telephone banking if you bank with BMO, TD, CIBC, RBC or Scotiabank.

You will need the account number found on your reminder letter.

1  • Log into your online bank portal
OR
 • Call your tele-banking number

2  In the payee drop down list, look for “Archdiocese of Toronto”
OR
 Search for “Archdiocese of Toronto” in the directory

3  Enter your account number, as seen on your reminder letter

Family of Faith Campaign

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If you have questions about the campaign or suggestions about content for future editions of this newsletter, please contact John Ecker, Director, Family of Faith Campaign & Special Projects: jecker@archtoronto.org or 416.934.3400 x805.

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